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'After 10 seconds we were told to turn around and have a look at the nuclear explosion. It was ghostly and everything was white.'

Brian Wood, who at 19 was ordered to observe nuclear tests in the Pacific

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

"THE WORLD was left without colour" – how one veteran of the Government's nuclear tests in the South Pacific described the moments after the bomb dropped a dozen miles from where he was watching.

Almost 1,000 veterans began a three-week trial at the High Court on Wednesday in the hope they will be given the go-ahead to sue the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

They are seeking compensation for a series of illnesses – including cancer, skin defects and fertility problems – they believe were caused by their exposure to radiation during the UK testing programme.

Brian Wood, who was 19 when he took part in the testing, was on board HMS Cossack in 1957, which was given the job of patrolling the 12-mile radius of the sites in the Pacific where the bombs were to be dropped from an aeroplane.

"We were ordered up onto the upper deck, we were wearing white gear and dark glasses for the flash, he said.

"They said 'turn away' as the countdown began. You did not hear a bang, just an echoing click in the ears.

"After 10 seconds we were told to turn around and have a look. I've never seen a world without colour, it was ghostly and everything was white.

"As he was frightened as the billowing mushroom cloud filled the skies, Mr Wood, who was 19 at the time, said: "No one knew anything about radiation. All these fish were floating in the sea.

"They were scooped up and taken to the galley and I can't prove it but I'm sure it was ghostly and everything was white."

Asked if he was seriously ill after the blast, Mr Wood, now 70, said: "No – but we weren't told anything about radiation. All these fish were floating in the sea, and we would go.

Around 25,000 servicemen from the British, Australian and New Zealand forces took part in a series of atomic and thermonuclear weapon tests in Australia and the Monte Bello Islands in the 1950s.

The barrister action, on behalf of the

FALLOUT: Brian Wood believes his children's illnesses are a result of his exposure to radiation during his days serving in the Royal Navy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Kent today

TODAY: Wet with heavy rain likely through the morning. The rain will begin to clear east later in the afternoon. Strong southerly winds. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F).
TONIGHT: Cloudy and damp in the evening but most places becoming dry. Fresh southerly winds. Min temp 2-4C (36-39F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	rain	5	41	London	cloudy	6	43
Belfast	rain	9	48	Liverpool	rain	8	46
Birmingham	showers	6	43	Manchester	rain	7	45
B'mouth	showers	7	45	Newcastle	rain	6	43
Bristol	showers	9	48	Norwich	rain	6	43
Cardiff	showers	8	46	Oxford	rain	8	46
Cork	sleet	6	43	Southsea	rain	8	46
Edinburgh	sleet	5	41	S'hampton	cloudy	6	43
Glasgow	rain	6	43	Southport	sun	–	–
Isle of Man	showers	8	46	Swansea	showers	8	46
Leeds	showers	5	41	Torquay	showers	8	46

Sun & moon

Sunrise	7.44am	Sunset	4.12pm	Lighting up times
Moonrise	7.30am	Moonset	3.37pm	4.32pm to 7.43am

High Tides

	Today				Tomorrow			
	AM		PM		AM		PM	
Dover	10.44	6.0	23.00	6.2	11.16	6.1	23.33	6.4
Margate	11.48	4.3	23.51	4.4	–	–	12.22	4.4
St Mary's	04.15	5.1	16.35	5.0	04.50	5.3	17.06	5.1

Week ahead

monday — Mainly dry. max 7C min 1C
tuesday — Cloudy. Dry. max 7C min 2C
wednesday — Rain clearing. max 6C min 2C
thursday — Dry and bright. max 7C min 3C
friday — Showery rain. max 6C min 2C
saturday — Light showers. max 7C min 1C

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CONTINUED FROM FRONT

veterans in the current court case, has pointed to a study of a small group of New Zealand nuclear test veterans, which proved most if not all of them had suffered genetic effects due to radiation.

It is being claimed that science has now established a link between the ill-health of the veterans and the tests.

The MoD's lawyers are arguing the case is outside the legal time limit for a compensation claim.

Mr Wood, who worked as a 'sparker', or radio operator, during his nine-year service in the Royal Navy, told how after the blast the ship went on to Australia and then Singapore.

It was during this journey that he began to fall ill and by the time the crew reached Singapore he could barely stand and had to be left at the hospital.

"I was in hospital for months, I don't think they knew what it was, there was swelling of the glands and it was really painful and I couldn't walk because my groin had swollen so much," he said.

Veterans first considered legal action against the MoD in 2002 but have run into problems with finances for the multi-million pound claim. If the current case fails and the MoD succeeds, the veterans' claim will never be considered.

Asked if he would consider making a claim, Mr Wood added: "I feel very angry because of the laissez faire attitude they seem to have and saying it has been too long now and it is too late.

"If I was sent to Afghanistan now I would know the risks, but we did not know we were in danger and we could not have said 'I'm not going there because I think it is unsafe'.

"To me it is the children that have to be considered, it is more them than me. My health is not that bad. I saw a guy on the TV from HMS Cossack and he was in a very bad way.

"If the nuclear test has done this to them, they did not asked to be involved. If it is proven that our genes have been altered and passed onto our children, I would ask for compensation on behalf of them."

The US and France have made payouts to nuclear test veterans.

Fears rail freight price hike will lead to HGV road chaos

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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CONCERNS have been raised that soaring charges for freight on the new high-speed line running from the Continent through Kent could add to the millions of lorries already using the county's road network.

The project cost nearly £6 billion and when the high-speed service is introduced in December journey times for passengers travelling between Ashford and London will be slashed to 36.5 minutes, but daily passenger ticket prices could rocket to £67.

Freight movements on the new line could also soar, with Eurotunnel confirming it is set to charge nearly 500 per cent more than normal Network Rail charges.

Capacity

A spokesman, who refused to provide specific figures because they were on a "commercial contract basis", said: "The differential price does exist but it is not a Eurotunnel issue it is a Government issue, because the high-speed track was constructed using Government funds so they lead the price setting for it."

Eurotunnel, the operator of the Channel Tunnel, said it had a great capacity for rail freight and was keen to see that sector of its business grow.

The Green Party in Kent said the proposed price hikes for freight would mean that more lorries would end up transporting goods using the county's already strained road network.

Kent County Council said that 3.75 million lorries come into Kent through the ports and the Channel Tunnel each year and the Greens said that number was increasing at a rate of seven to eight per cent annually.

INCREASE: Eurotunnel freight charges are set to eclipse Network Rail by 500 per cent

Dr Hazel Dawe, the party's chair, said: "We need to reduce the number of heavy lorries travelling through Kent not encourage more of them.

"Clearly, increasing rail freight is a major option we must use to achieve this. But the Government plans to charge nearly 500 per cent more for freight travelling on Kent's high-speed lines than the usual Network Rail freight charges.

"This may decrease the amount of freight carried by rail instead of increasing it. It is obvious rail freight needs reasonable charges and increased investment in order to compete."

Increased numbers of HGVs on the county's roads would add to congestions problems, especially when Operation Stack is implemented due to port closures, put pressure on road surfaces and add to the amount of CO2 emissions.

Jo Abbott, a spokeswoman for the RAC Foundation, which promotes the environmental, economic, mobility and safety issues related to the use of motor vehicles, was aware of the high amount of HGVs already on Kent's roads and raised concerns about safety.

She said: "We are concerned about the risk to motorists' safety posed by increased numbers of left-hand drive HGVs on Kent's roads that may result from freight companies switching to road as rail-freight becomes more expensive.

"Statistics from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) already show that foreign lorries are more often less roadworthy than UK vehicles.

"On a mile-for-mile basis, a foreign lorry is about three times more likely to be involved in an accident than a UK vehicle.

"If there is an increase in the numbers of foreign vehicles on Kent's roads, we would expect to see more advice being available to their drivers on arrival at the ports, and more inspections from VOSA."

KCC leader Paul Carter took a more pragmatic view of the soaring freight charges: "Certainly the amount of freight that goes on the railway is not that great at the moment," he said.

"Therefore, the percentage increase in lorry movements is going to be pretty small. The Greens never admit to this."

He said companies chose to move freight by HGVs over rail because it was quicker and cheaper.

Asked whether the high-speed line would make it more attractive due to the slashed journey times, he said: "But rail is not as easy as that. You have to change railway line, get to the next distribution point… Whereas using road you can have one lorry and one driver."

He added: "That is why at the moment capacity on the Channel Tunnel has been there, it has been led by the market and you can't buck the market place."

A spokesman for the Department for Transport said: "Freight operators are in discussions with High Speed 1 about the freight charges but nothing has been announced."

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Mayor Boris sails into stormy seas

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson took to Kentish waters to explore the Thames Estuary location he feels would best support a new airport.

By STEVE KNIGHT
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Mr Johnson pushed the boat out on Friday and sailed to an area about two miles north of Sheerness. His trip followed the Government's announcement last week that it had approved plans for a third runway at Heathrow, which the mayor has opposed.

Mr Johnson claims the decision is unlawful because other possible alternatives – including a new airport in the Thames Estuary – have not yet been fully explored.

A spokesman said: "We wanted to see what conditions were like in the area where he thinks the airport should be built.

"So the mayor went out to take a look. With him was Nick Raynsford, the Labour MP who is part of the airport group, and engineer Doug Oakervee, who masterminded a similar project in Hong Kong and is now non-executive chairman of Crossrail.

"Doug briefed the party about the possibilities and challenges. It was a productive visit."

Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Derek Wyatt, KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter and many residents and environmentalists have condemned Mr Johnson's idea since it was first suggested in September, last year.

George Crozer, of the Friends of the North Kent Marshes, cited the recent Hudson River air crash as one of many reasons why an airport in the Thames Estuary would not work.

He said: "The estuary is home to 300,000 migratory birds and a government survey in 2003 concluded that the potential for bird-strike made it one of the worst possible places to site an airport.

"Thank God nobody died when the plane crashed into the Hudson in New York, but it brings home just how silly an idea it would be. People think of starlings and sparrows when we talk about birds in the estuary, but there are much larger ones such as Canada geese.

"Boris Johnson is just playing a political game and trying to please people in London."

Despite his anger at the Heathrow approval, Mr Johnson said earlier this week he was confident a third runway would never be built because Labour would lose the next general election.

The Conservatives have promised to scrap the plans if they are voted into power.

News and sport updated daily online
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Picture: KNP

BOARD MEETING: Unexpected harvest from the sea at Viking Bay, Broadstairs

Police warning fails to deter scavengers

SCAVENGERS are ignoring police appeals to stay away from the Thanet coast after a huge cargo of timber washed up between Ramsgate and Broadstairs.

About 1,500 tonnes of sawn wood began to wash ashore on Wednesday night after being lost overboard from a Russian ship earlier in the week.

Police warned that taking any of the wood was a criminal offence – but that didn't stop scores of people from helping themselves.

Most claimed they were within their rights to do so, so long as they had the correct paperwork to notify the Receiver of Wreck at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

The receiver's role is to decide upon the importance of wrecks and act as the middle man between owner and scavengers.

Dennis Solly, 48, from Ramsgate, said: "I'm having some of it. I've told the police and got the papers, so it's all legit.

"The legal situation? It's a grey area. As long as you tell them you're taking it, you're all right. I'll just be storing it for them, it's salvage rights.

"I've lived here all my life and I think I'm as entitled as anyone to some of it."

Fellow Ramsgate resident Martin Hodge, 31, said he would be taking some of the wood as he did not believe its owners would want it back.

Picture: KNP

MANY PLANKS: Loading up at sea wall

He said: "It'll all be twisted and soaked through with saltwater. It'll need so much treatment it won't be worth their while getting it back."

The timber fell from the Russian-registered vessel Sinegorsk on Monday, 14 miles off of Newhaven, East Sussex. The ship was sailing between Sweden and Egypt.

Police Chief Supt John Molloy, the area commander for east Kent, said: "We are working with the coastguard and other agencies to make the beaches safe.

"I would remind everyone that shorelines can be dangerous, particularly in poor weather, and people could be putting themselves at unnecessary risk by venturing into the sea to salvage the timber."

TV murder appeal

THE unsolved murder of Maidstone father Danny King is to be featured on BBC One's Crimewatch on Tuesday.

Det Chief Insp John Bumpus will appeal for information about the death of 51-year-old Mr King, who was found at home with multiple gunshot wounds on October 17, last year. The show, which airs from 9pm, will feature CCTV footage shown for the first time.

Call Kent Police on 01622 654863 or email dannykingappeal@kent.pnn.police.uk.

Tommy's extra time

EX-footballer Tommy Farrer's old club held a minute's silence in his honour – mistakenly believing he was dead.

Mr Farrer, 86, was at his home in Maidstone, but that didn't stop County Durham side Bishop Auckland holding the tribute, as 2,000 fans paid their respects before a match.

But Mr Farrer had just celebrated his 65th wedding anniversary with wife Gladys. The club realised their mistake when the chairman rang Mrs Farrer to offer his condolences, only to be told he'd popped out to get a paper.

To see this clip go to 'Coleman'
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Youngsters on wheels give their views on their skate park. Search 'Coleman'

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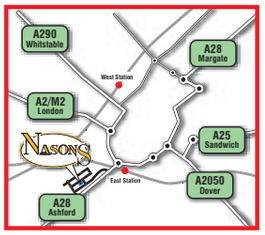

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Finishing school for the modern day teen

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

TROUBLESOME teenagers are being invited to clean up their act by attending a modern-day version of a finishing school.

Shy youngsters and those with low self-esteem have also taken part in the Brand You Experience, which aims to help school leavers prepare for their working lives through a series of motivational workshops.

The scheme, which started in Dover last year and is now being extended to Maidstone, is a joint initiative between Kent County Council and mentoring and coaching organisation Beyond Excellence.

Project leader Dean Martin said: "In Dover we had a real mixed bag of youngsters taking part.

"Some schools used the course as a means of rewarding pupils who weren't troublemakers, but who rarely shone in the classroom.

"Then we had some who were bouncing off the walls and others who had very low opinions of themselves and perhaps weren't receiving the right support.

"Many of the youngsters who take part are just not ready for a career path, so we give them a bit of direction, a bit of confidence and help them realise what their options are."

The next Brand You Experience course runs for five days from Monday, February 16, at Bradbourne House, East Malling, Maidstone.

Each session runs from 9.30am until 3.30pm and Mr Martin is encouraging potential employers to visit and offer their support to the youngsters.

He said: "We have found from talking to young people and employers that they are often poles apart in what they expect from each other. It can be a big culture shock for school leavers because they don't have the comfort of their friends any more, whereas employers seem to want more in terms of initiative and confidence.

"We saw the culture gap and took the idea to KCC that we could reinvent the old finishing school – but without having people walk around with books on their heads.

"The youngsters we've worked with so far seem to have really benefited. A teacher of one of the girls who attended our last course said we wouldn't believe the difference in her.

"She used to be timid and kept herself to herself, but when she went back to school she helped organise their annual ball. To hear stories like that makes us realise we are doing the right thing in helping these young people get on the right career paths."

For more information on the Brand You Experience, call Mr Martin on 01843 844939.

THUMBS UP: Three youngsters give their verdict on the Brand You Experience

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Teenager bailed after suspected pub arson attack

A 19-YEAR-OLD man has been arrested after a historic pub was wrecked in a serious arson attack.

Detectives questioned the man, who is from the Dartford area, after the fire at the Black Lion in Southfleet, near Gravesend, in the early hours of Tuesday.

At the height of the blaze 40 firefighters were tackling the flames that ripped through the 17th century building's timber frame and thatched roof.

Police said the cause of the blaze was being treated as suspicious, but officers were unable to confirm reports that it had been caused by a petrol bomb.

The arrested man was released on police bail on Wednesday pending further inquiries.

To see this clip search 'Royston'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Royston Price has been nominated for a BBC Radio 4 award for raising awareness about macular disease

East loses out on EU millions

RURAL Kent received a multi-million pound boost this week – but eastern parts of the county have missed out, ***writes Tony Patey***.

European Union grants totalling £3.85 million have been made available to help business, farmers and communities in mid and west Kent, but a bid for cash for the east was unsuccessful.

Cllr Richard Long, Kent County Council's lead member for regeneration and supporting independence, said it was a "huge disappointment" east Kent lost out.

"It is a matter of great regret because farms and rural businesses in east Kent are just as deserving as those in mid and west Kent

"We were bitterly disappointed our bid for the east was unsuccessful. Frankly, the whole process is quite opaque to us. However, we are pleased two out of three bids were successful on behalf of smaller rural businesses, farms and communities."

Mid Kent is getting £2.25m and west Kent £1.6m. West Kent will be officially launching its own part of the action soon through Sevenoaks council.

In mid Kent, grants will be spread over five years and will be made available by the Kent Downs and Marshes Leader rural funding programme, with KCC taking care of the administration. Grants of up to £50,000 can be awarded to help farmers developing new food products, innovative tourism schemes and community-led projects.

Applications can be made at www.kentruralnetwork.org.uk/leader; or email contactruralregeneration@kent.gov.uk.

Qualifying areas in mid Kent are rural areas of Ashford, Dover, Canterbury, Maidstone, Medway, Shepway and Swale.

For west Kent funding details, contact westkentleader@sevenoaks.gov.uk or call Caroline Lingham 01732 227282.

Trust rescues maritime artefacts

HISTORIC collections at Ramsgate Maritime Museum have been passed into the ownership of the Canterbury-based Steam Museum Trust.

The trust has stepped into rescue boats and nautical memorabilia previously owned by the East Kent Maritime Trust, which was dissolved in September, last year. Early objectives include securing the future of the Clock House and developing the neighbouring dry dock.

A trust spokesman said: "The museum is an important focal point for Ramsgate and its harbour. With a viable plan and the enthusiasm of local people, it can continue to serve us all."

Day in the life of cathedral

Book of photographs to help boost appeal to save building

CAUGHT IN THE MOMENT: Archdeacon the Ven Sheila Watson enjoys a cup of tea

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Dean of Canterbury is to attend a book signing to help promote a campaign to save the city's historic cathedral.

The Very Rev Robert Willis will be joined at Thursday's event by local photographer Jason Dodd, who spent a year taking pictures of the many people who live, work and volunteer within its precincts.

Waterstone's in Rose Lane, Canterbury, will host the signing, which also includes a talk on Mr Dodd's book Canterbury Cathedral; A Day in the Life, from 6pm.

All proceeds from the sale of the publication are being donated to the Save Canterbury Cathedral appeal, which aims to raise £50 million to pay for desperately needed work to the building's stonemasonry, stained glass windows and lead roof.

So far more than £9m has been raised.

Mr Dodd told Kent on Sunday he was pleased to be able to help such a worthy cause.

He added: "The cathedral is such a landmark – not just for Canterbury but for the whole country – and that's why it's so important we all support the campaign.

"It's been great to be involved with it, and the more time I spent there the more I saw the different types of people who all work there, and for me that gave it a different type of appeal.

"More than 900 people are involved in the running of the place, and I tried to bring out that personal aspect out in my book rather than have lots of pictures of the cathedral itself."

The collection of images, which is also on sale at the Save Canterbury Cathedral shop, has so far sold more than 200 copies from a limited run of 500.

One of the pictures – featuring visitor helper Caroline Richards – has since been selected to form part of a poster promoting British Tourism Week 2009, which takes place between March 23-29.

Mr Dodd said: "I wanted to emulate my heroes Rene Burri and John Loengard, whose photography was all about the moment. Nothing staged – just pure photography.

"Although it took me a year to complete, I wasn't there every day. There's probably about a month's worth of work in there.

"The pictures show everyone from the Dean and Canon to the mailman, gardeners and refuse collectors.

"I'm looking forward to talking about the experience and the anecdotes from the year, and feel honoured that the Dean will join me."

Canterbury Cathedral; A Day in the Life, is available now, priced £17.

• ***For more information call Waterstone's on 01227 452354 or visit www.savecanterburycathedral.com.***

SUPPORT: The Very Rev Robert Willis, dean of Canterbury, will attend book signing

SERVICE: The choir during Evensong

WORTHY CAUSE: Funds raised from Jason Dodd's (above) book of photographs will go toward vital repairs at Canterbury Cathedral

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£50m Icelandic banking fiasco firm still advising on County Hall finances

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT County Council is still accepting financial advice from the company that failed to warn it against investing £50 million in Iceland.

Finance cabinet member Cllr Nick Chard told KOS Media that financial advisors Butlers – a company run by Conservative Party treasurer Michael Spencer – had been "very helpful" in the months since the Icelandic banking collapse. However, he sought to assure taxpayers there was hardly any risk associated with where their money was now being placed.

Cllr Chard said: "For the time being all deposits are going to the Debt Management Office, which is part of the Treasury.

"We are still considering and discussing our future relationship with Butlers, but are still in regular contact with them because it is useful to know what the credit ratings agencies say, even if we are not using them to make deposits. It's still good to receive market information and Butlers have been very helpful in looking at things such as loans that we have to make."

KCC has been depositing money with the Debt Management Office since the banking collapse last October, but such a procedure is not sustainable in the long term.

The rates of interest the council currently receive are between 60 and 70 per cent less than before, which would lead to an annual loss of £6m if maintained.

Liquidity

That figure is the equivalent of about one per cent on council tax. Cllr Chard said the council was still working hard to recoup the cash frozen in Icelandic banks.

About £18m is being held by the UK-based Heritable bank, with the remaining £32m split between Landsbanki and Glitnir.

He said: "Nick Vickers [KCC's head of financial services] will be going back to Iceland for more meetings soon, but it's just a waiting game at the moment.

"We're still in discussions with their government and the banks, so hopefully we can keep things moving forward, which is what we've been doing at every opportunity. We knew it would take time, but we are still working on the premise that we will get all the money back."

Cllr Chard added there had been no further developments regarding the money placed with Heritable, which is now being run by administrators Ernst & Young.

Earlier this month KCC announced a council tax rise of 2.85 per cent – the lowest increase ever – suggesting the £50m loss has so far had no impact on services.

Cllr Chard said: "I maintain this was never an issue of liquidity and we didn't need to spend the money. It hasn't made an impact on services, and nor shall it for quite some time, depending on the final outcome of the banks."

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Back on track

NEWS that direct Eurostar services to Brussels from Ashford International station are returning earlier than expected has been welcomed by town chiefs.

Eurostar has confirmed it will be resuming the service at the end of February – two weeks earlier than expected.

Judith Armitt, managing director of Ashford's Future, said: "We have been making the case for a daily service and are delighted."

The service is due to restart on February 23.

Africa tragedy

A PENSIONER has died in a tragic accident while on holiday in South Africa.

Tony Staplehurst, 76, from Ashford, was using a video camera when he appeared to lose his footing and fell 10 metres down a cliff face.

He was taking part in a guided tour of the Robberg Nature Reserve with his wife, Anne.

Paramedics tried to revive Mr Staplehurst, but without success.

Mr Staplehurst, a trustee of the Willesborough Windmill Group, has been described by friends as "a pillar of the community".

Fixed safety camera sites are often backed up by mobile camera vans – this helps reduce the number of people who slow for the camera and speed up afterwards.

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Cig litterbug fined – with no ifs or butts

A MAN who threw a cigarette out of a car window has been prosecuted for littering, fined £100 and ordered to pay £200 costs.

On July 3, last year, Nathan Chapman of St John's Road, Faversham, was seen by a council environmental enforcement officer throwing a butt out of his Ford Fiesta.

He was sent a fixed penalty notice of £80, which he did not pay, and was taken to court.

Chapman denied littering but was found guilty by Sittingbourne magistrates.

Swale enforcement officer Malcolm Hewson said: "Up to 75 per cent of litter on the streets is smoking related.

"Council officers and partners such as Clean Kent have put a lot of effort into making Swale cleaner and our balance of enforcement work and proactive campaigns is having an impact."

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Police 'frustration' over wrong count of violent crime figures

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A LEADING police officer has told of his "frustration" over the Kent force's misreporting of serious violent crimes in the county.

Kent Police were among 18 forces nationally that had miscounted the numbers of the most serious offences such as attempted murder and grievous bodily harm (GBH), due to a change in Home Office guidance.

The county constabulary was forced to suspend serious violent offences statistics from its crime figures for the third quarter of 2008, which were due to be published on Thursday.

Acting Assistant Chief Constable Peter West told KOS Media: "It is frustrating, in as much as when new crime recording methods and differences are introduced, and the guidance that goes with that, it takes a period of settling down."

In April, last year, the Home Office clarified the counting rules for how violent crimes should be defined and recorded by forces.

"A serious violent crime category makes sense and it makes sense to the public, but you have to have the training in the recording systems and how officers will record it," Mr West said.

Reports said forces had been downgrading crimes where there was an intention to cause serious injury but no actual injury resulted. Forces were accused of not counting some of the most serious violent crimes. But Kent Police said they had over-counted serious violent crime.

Mr West said: "There is a bit of frustration over the media inference that we were under-recording. That is definitely not the case as far as we are concerned."

The suggestion was that forces had deliberately brushed under the carpet serious offences to improve their statistics.

"We have suspended our figures because of applying the wrong interpretation of the guidelines, but we will know the figures before the end of the financial year," he said.

"Serious violent crime was 6.3 per cent of our total – 1,277 out of 20,204 crimes – and when we have gone through every one with the most recent guidance, every indication is that the figure will fall."

He said the technicalities did not change the fact that violent crime in Kent was going down. Violent crime has fallen by 16.2 per cent during the last two years, which represents a reduction of 3,919 offences.

The British Crime Survey results, which were published on Thursday and are based on independent findings, showed a nine per cent reduction in total violent crime in Kent.

Mr West said Kent Police were rated 'excellent' for crime recording by the Audit Commission and had rigorously applied the new guidelines.

He added that the force was working with the Home Office to ensure the recording of serious violent crime matched the counting rules.

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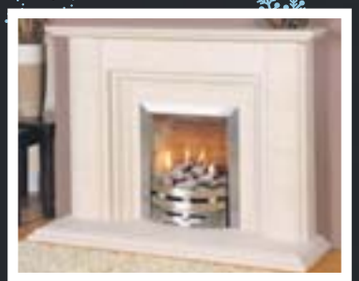

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Dockyard's Forces Day honour

THE first national Armed Forces Day will be hosted by Chatham's Historic Dockyard after the world heritage site saw off competition from five other hopefuls.

At the dockyard on Thursday, the Government's veterans minister Kevan Jones launched the scheme to annually honour Britain's service personnel.

Speaking on board HMS Gannet, the last surviving ship of Queen Victoria's navy, he said: "Our forces and veterans rightly deserve the nation's support and recognition. They and their families have made and continue to make huge personal sacrifices to ensure the interests of our country are defended and this is our chance to say thank you.

"We are encouraging communities to put on some type of event in recognition of our Armed Forces – past, present and future – to show our appreciation."

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

On June 27 all eyes will be on Chatham, where a senior member of the Royal family is expected to attend, as the celebrations for the Armed Forces Day begin.

The dockyard has more than 400 years of military history and this year marks its 25th anniversary of becoming a trust, which works to ensure its maritime heritage is protected.

Admiral Sir Ian Garnett, chairman of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust, which was formed after the Naval dockyard was closed in 1984, said: "It is both an honour and a privilege for the dockyard to be the venue for the UK's first National Armed Forces Day.

"We are especially pleased that this will allow us to recognise the enormous contribution made by those who worked in this dockyard and the many other military bases around the country. Our intention is to provide an opportunity for the public, young and old from many walks of life, to join the men and women of our Armed Forces and celebrate their achievements."

Also at the launch was veteran Robin Green, one of the last National Servicemen in the RAF, who served from 1960-62.

He said: "This will provide a morale boost to the Armed Forces community. It is good to know our efforts are being recognised."

Events planned for the summer celebration in Chatham include tri-service parades with marching bands, fly-pasts, interactive displays and activities and a ship assault display by the Royal Marine commandos.

Vice-Admiral Peter Wilkinson, deputy chief of defence staff (personnel) said: "For the past three years, the nation has come together on June 27 to celebrate Veterans Day. From 2009 the day will also celebrate the men and women still serving and those who may one day come to serve.

"We are planning a range of events across the country and Chatham will have a leading role to play."

The 80-acre site on the River Medway is where ships were built, repaired and manned from Tudor times until the Falklands War, including HMS Victory, Lord Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar.

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Film editor's ogre to please

A HOLLYWOOD editor who helped bring children's favourite Shrek to life is to attend an after-school film club in Kent, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Sim Evan-Jones, who also worked on the two recent Chronicles of Narnia movies, will visit youngsters at St Saviour's Junior School in Thanet, on Tuesday.

The talented Briton will bring with him outtakes, gag reels and props as part of a workshop organised by the Government-funded FilmClub scheme.

St Saviour's FilmClub leader Julie Leahy said her pupils were looking forward to the visit of Mr Evan-Jones.

"It was just too good an opportunity to miss," she said. "The children love Shrek and are really excited about finding out how the film was made."

Mr Evan-Jones is one of many supporters of the FilmClub scheme, which gives children throughout the UK access to 60,000 free films. He also worked on Madagascar and An American Tale, and has lived in Los Angeles for 12 years while working for both DreamWorks and Steven Spielberg's Amblimation.

Miss Leahy said: "About 20 members attend the club each week. We let them watch an entire film every other week and discuss what they saw. They also make charts and graphs and write reviews, so it's all tied into literacy and maths too. It's also a great way for the children to socialise outside of school hours and they always seem to be having a great time."

SCHOOL VISIT: Sim Evan-Jones, inset, worked on the movie Shrek

FilmClub was founded in 2006 by Beeban Kidron, who directed Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason, and educationalist Lindsay Mackie. The scheme is supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the UK Film Council and LoveFilm.

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'I want these people caught'

Owner in plea to help catch the attackers who killed dog

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE thugs who mutilated and killed a number of dogs in different attacks are being hunted by officials.

In one incident, two youths savagely kicked to death a golden retriever which was out for a walk with a friend of the owner.

In a second incident, the mutilated corpses of several dogs have been dumped at a beauty spot.

The attack on the retriever happened near Albany Road, Chatham, when the youths set about kicking the nine-year-old dog called Bailey.

When the motiveless horror attack was over, the animal was rushed to the vet, but despite treatment it died the next day. Bailey suffered broken ribs and a punctured lung.

Now the RSPCA is appealing for help in finding those responsible and it may take legal action. The attackers are both aged about 18, white and of medium height.

The dog's owner Beryl Phillips, 52, who works at Morrisons, in Strood, said: "A friend was walking Bailey, who was off the lead heading for the local park, when two youths started kicking him.

KICKED: Labrador Bailey died after a rib was broken and lung punctured in attack

"It was horrible. My friend shouted out, and they ran. We had to take Bailey to the vet, and after being given some morphine we took him home.

"Later that evening, there were fluid sounds coming from his back, and we rushed him to the emergency vet in Maidstone.

"He tested to see if there was blood seeping inside his body and it appeared he was clear.

"Bailey was kept in overnight, and we could then take him back to the vet in Gillingham for another examination.

"By this time Bailey was having trouble breathing and he was given an X-ray. We left him there to be treated, but the vet said he could see the stomach swelling, and he knew something was wrong.

"We telephoned to see how he was getting on, and were told by mistake that he was okay and could be picked up at 6pm. But then 20 minutes later they rang back to apologise and to tell us Bailey had died.

"A rib had been broken and he also had a punctured lung.

"I want these two people caught. They caused enormous suffering to a helpless and faithful pet. We'd had him from a puppy – he was adorable, and I can't believe he was killed in this disgusting way."

RSPCA Inspector Alana Chapman said: "This was a horrific, totally out of the blue attack. We would like to hear from anyone with any information on this."

Meanwhile, the mutilated bodies of three German shepherd dogs have been found dumped at a beauty spot at Wouldham.

Dog fighting has not been ruled out, but the RSPCA believes they suffered the injuries some other way.

Spokesman Klare Kennett said: "We firmly suspect these injuries are deliberate in some way and not accidental."

One adult dog had a broken leg, a broken back and cut injuries all over its body.

Two six-month puppies were found dead in the same area over the past few weeks, with similar injuries. A dead Staffordshire bull terrier has also been found.

The dogs were collected by the council dog warden and the RSPCA was informed.

And on Tuesday morning, the body of a Jack Russell terrier, with injuries to its head and legs and cuts and scrapes was found at Wouldham Common.

RSPCA Inspector Alana Chapman said: "It is strange these dogs have all been found with this horrific injuries. We would like to know who they belonged to and what is going on here."

A conviction of animal cruelty can attract six months in jail and a £20,000 fine.

• ***Anyone with any information on any of the incidents is asked to contact the RSPCA in confidence on 03001234999.***

Firm drums up interest in fuel-saving technology

RENEWABLE enviro-tech company, Oil Drum, which won the 2008 Kent Innovation Challenge, has signed a six-figure deal to license the manufacture, sales and distribution of its fuel-saving product through the UK.

The firm, based at the University of Kent and with a manufacturing site in Sittingbourne, has granted the licence to Huddersfield-based Andel Group for its Save-Fuel hydrogen technology covering the UK commercial vehicle market.

Queen's Award winning Andel will now take on responsibility for the device which has shown in independent tests to reduce fuel consumption by more than 10 per cent, reduce CO_2 and cut hydrocarbon emissions to zero.

Since it was launched, the system, which is a compact unit attached to a truck or bus and powered by the vehicle's own power source, has been fitted to nearly 500 commercial vehicles.

Oil Drum is currently in negotiations with a number companies throughout the world, including the US and Australia, to licence the rights to manufacture and market its product. The legal licence agreement was developed for Oil Drum by Vertex Law, a commercial law firm based at Kings Hill.

The 2009 Kent Innovation Challenge is open to entries until February 20.

It is sponsored by KOS Media, Kent Enterprise Hubs, Kent County Council, Kent Science Park, Business Link, Vertex Law, Natwest, Coast Communications, Lavender Blue Media, CBI, Skills for Business and the University of Greenwich.

Visit www.kentinnovationchallenge.co.uk for more information.

• ***For an interview with managing director Darryl Watts, see Talking Business on page 90.***

Midwives' research to reduce C-sections

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

MIDWIVES in Kent have developed an audit tool that has seen Caesarean section rates drop by up to five per cent.

Concerns have been raised that Caesarean rates, which have doubled over the past 10 years, are too high and the NHS has been working to ensure more women have normal births.

Sarah Gregson, a consultant midwife for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, entered her team into the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) annual awards in the 'innovation' category after they developed the 'midwifery practice audit'.

She said the tool was placed in the top three out of entries from across the UK, at the ceremony on Thursday at the Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington, London.

The audit tool, which was first devised in 2003 by a group of senior midwives led by Hilary Thomas at Pembury Hospital, was used again during 2007-08.

Mrs Gregson said: "C-section rates have doubled across the UK but we have not been saving any more mothers or babies because of it.

"Maternity services across the board are looking at how we can increase normal births because there are a lot of health benefits for mother and child."

The tool works by getting the midwife to fill in a form every hour during a labour and note information such as changes of position and keeping the patient upright, encouraging different support strategies such as using water.

"It was very much a shopfloor initiative due to shared concerns about rising C-section rates," Mrs Gregson said.

The results of the original audit were lost and when Mrs Gregson joined the trust in a new role in 2006 to promote normal births, it was agreed it would be run again at the Pembury maternity unit, which deals with 2,500 births a year.

SAFE OPTION: New audit helps midwives monitor a mother more closely during labour

Research shows that women who give birth normally are more likely to breast feed, which is considered to be the best nutritionally for newborn children and to build up their natural defences.

During the second trial of the audit, Caesarean rates dropped by more than two per cent overall from 26 per cent of births in 2007 to 23.4 per cent in 2008.

Mrs Gregson said that among first-time mums going into labour naturally the team saw the best results with a five per cent fall in C-sections.

Mrs Gregson said that while C-sections were important for women experiencing serious complications in their labour, or who had medical conditions, many were being carried out unnecessarily.

Around 24 per cent of UK births are C-sections, while the World Health Organisation's target is for no more than 10 to 15 per cent.

The RMC has called the rate "worryingly high" and has said it is linked to a shortage of midwives.

A petition, signed by 30,000 midwives, was handed into Downing Street on Thursday calling for funding for more of the specialists.

Mrs Gregson said the audit tool was now being used by Maidstone Hospital, and another trust in Kent had expressed interest.

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Search on for council chief

A HUNT for the new chief executive of Swale council is under way – with the successful applicant set to land a wage packet believed to be in the region of £130,000.

The local authority has been without someone in the role for months – ever since the fiasco surrounding Mark Bilsborough's departure.

He was eventually dismissed after a hearing ruled in favour of senior council officers who had complained about his conduct.

At one time the local council faced the prospect of having to justify its actions before an employment tribunal, but Mr Bilsborough eventually withdrew a claim for unfair dismissal.

Mike Fisher had been doing the job on an interim basis but a full-time person for the post is now being sought.

It is expected the successful candidate will be named on March 26 at a meeting of the full council.

New Years resolutions –
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Fans to take Hart from memorial to artist Tony

AN ONLINE petition has been launched to install a memorial for the late Tony Hart in his home town.

The much-loved artist, who was born in Maidstone, died peacefully at his home in Surrey on Friday, January 16. He was 83.

By **ANNA WHITE**
anna.white@kosmedia.co.uk

Since his death, more than 150 members have already joined the 'Maidstone Would like a Statue or Memorial of Maidstonian Tony Hart' group on social networking site Facebook.

The popular online group suggests a statue or memorial for Hart could be included and funded as part of the council's plan to improve the High Street.

It reads: "A gentleman and an inspiration to millions of children to pick up a pen and draw. I think Maidstone should have a memorial to him.

Inspiration

"If you think Maidstone should remember one of its sons and have a memorial to a man who was an inspiration to many, join this group."

The group then urges people to put forward their ideas to the council.

Comments posted on the site show a statue of Hart's clay creation Morph is the most popular idea.

Hart was born in Hastings Road, Maidstone, on October 15, 1925, and attended St Margaret's Pre-Prep School in the town until the age of nine.

He served with the 1st Gurkha Riffles in World War Two, before he studied at the Maidstone College of Art, now the University for the Creative Arts. He graduated in 1950.

From then he went on to start his 50-year long career in television.

In recent years the illustrator had suffered two strokes, which left him unable to draw.

Mr Hart spoke to othe Kentish Saturday Observer during an exclusive interview in October last year.

He said: "I enjoyed my 50-year career on television and were it not for my ill health I might still be doing a few things on the box.

"Sadly two strokes have brought my artistic activities to a halt."

Speaking of his childhood he added: "I had a very happy childhood but this was broken up by my schooling, which took me first to All Saints Choir School in London, and later to Clayesmore public school in Dorset.

"Sadly I have not been able to visit my home town very often as my work has kept me within commuting distance of London, and Bristol.

"However, I did stay in Maidstone long enough to take part in local amateur dramatics in the period before I went off into the Indian Army."

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MUCH LOVED: TV artist Tony Hart

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Transport chief to open lectures

TRANSPORT minister Lord Adonis will launch University of Kent's open lecture Series on Friday, January 30.

Titled The Channel Tunnel – Reflections on a Transport Revolution, the lecture will be at Brabourne Lecture Theatre, Keynes College at 6pm on the university's Canterbury campus.

The lecture is free and open to all.

Lord Adonis was previously Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and Learners and a special advisor to Tony Blair.

Other speakers in lecture series include Prof Michael Baum, who will give the Kent Cancer Trust lecture and Prof Steve Jones, who will ask: Is human evolution over?

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Kent is lucky enough to have one of the best helicopter pilot training schools in the UK. AV8 Helicopters, based at Rochester airport, uses instructors with a wealth of experience. And the company offers 20-minute, 30-minute or hour-long introductory flying lessons to give a taste of the thrill of taking control of a helicopter. So for anyone looking to sweep their Valentine off their feet, this could be the answer.

The trial flights are also the perfect gift for a birthday or Christmas, offering an unforgettable experience. To test this out I went along to Rochester airport this week for a 30-minute introductory flight.

Trying to suppress a mixture of excitement and trepidation, I was introduced to instructor Richard Cooke, 61, and felt immediate relief that I was in safe hands. He has built up more than 13,000 hours flying helicopters for the Army, oil companies and Kent Air Ambulance, before becoming an instructor for AV8 at its Medway hub. He introduced me to the Robinson R22 we would be going up in – and I was stunned by how small it was.

WIDE BLUE YONDER: Jon Coates takes off

This is the most popular aircraft for training pilots as it is very light and sensitive to the touch.

Richard first explained the three flying controls – the cyclic stick used to speed up, slow down or go left or right, the collective lever used to make the craft rise or fall, and two foot-pedals used to control the tail rotor. Pressing the pedals rotates the helicopter left or right, which is used to hover. For the trial flight you only take control of the cyclic stick, but it's good to understand the basics of rotational flight before taking off.

'I'll never forget the flight and hope it won't be my last'

Richard stressed how sensitive the stick was and explained where we would be flying and that once we were levelled out and settled, the controls would be passed to me. I was then fully briefed on the cockpit instruments and – after safety checks – we were ready to go.

The Robinson R22 has a perspex canopy stretching down to your feet, which gives an incredible view. It feels like floating on the air. It's an amazing feeling lifting off the ground and soaring away with the whole of Medway, Hoo, Sheppey and the Thames Estuary stretching in front of me. Richard calmly talked me through every step of the take-off and going into flight, and got me used to the vibration and noise of the craft as we headed towards Leeds Castle.

Then after just a few minutes, I gripped my side of the dual-control main stick to feel his movements and then I was flying the chopper. The stick was unbelievably sensitive and I sent us veering off to the right and back. But after being corrected by Richard, I managed to keep a straight course, which is the aim of the introductory lesson.

By **JON COATES**
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

As I relaxed and my confidence grew, I was able to look around and take in the stunning views, having been blessed with clear blue skies on a rare sunny winter day.

After following the M20 over Maidstone to Leeds Castle, which looks even better from the air, Richard took charge to turn around and then demonstrate how to land a helicopter in an emergency.

If the craft loses power it can still fly through the wind turning the rotor blades, which is known as auto-rotation.

So unlike in the movies where the choppers spin out of control into the ground, helicopters can safely make emergency landings.

Before reaching the ground, Richard fired up the engine and we headed back to Medway, with me taking the controls again.

The feeling of keeping it straight and level, and speeding up to make small alterations in direction to the left or right was brilliant. After hovering above the airfield's runway and me briefly taking the controls, we landed back at AV8's hub. I will never forget the experience and hope it won't be the last time I get to fly a helicopter.

The company runs 20-minute introductory flights for £130 plus VAT, 30-minute flights for £147.50 plus VAT and hour flights for £255 plus VAT.

After the trial flight if you're as hooked, as I was, then you need a minimum of 45 hours of lessons to get your private pilot's licence, at a cost of £255, plus VAT, per hour. AV8 also charters helicopters for private users and offers business travel for executives.

It also offers flights in executive helicopters over London and Hellfire Corner in Kent, for £150 per person, plus VAT.

For more details and to book, call AV8 on 01634 672288 or email info@av8helicopters.co.uk. The website is www.av8helicopters.co.uk.

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Anglers unite to tackle EU quota plans

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

EUROPEAN Union plans to limit the amount of fish amateur anglers can catch could be bad news for the shops and businesses that depend on the hobby.

Boat charter companies, tackle shops and other related businesses may all suffer unless the EU withdraws what many insiders feel is an unfair ruling for recreational fishermen in the UK.

The plans were introduced as a way of clamping down on those on the Continent who use large nets to gather fish to feed their families.

If the EU does not back down, skippers who take tourists on sea-angling trips off Kent's coast and those who fish from piers and beaches will have to abide by the same quota rules as commercial fishermen throughout Europe.

Kent Charter Fishing owner Dave Hancock said: "This could slaughter our business, but we may have no choice but to deal with it. It could make life very difficult for us. We would have to fish for different species and record every catch, which would be a big hassle.

"If you put our catches beside the amount caught by commercial fishermen, our numbers are insignificant. It doesn't seem fair and we want things to stay the way they are."

Kent MEP Daniel Hannan, who is a member of the European Parliament's committee on fisheries, said he would fight the decision.

He said: "It's outrageous to extend this policy to recreational anglers.

"When large-scale commercial fishing in places such as Margate dried up, people started taking tourists out on angling trips on boats instead. For them to have to register their catch is preposterous.

"But I think there's a reasonable chance of stopping this going through. Some stupid decisions have been passed before, but this one is so indefensible I'm fairly confident we'll be able to fix it."

NET LOSS: Sea anglers are unhappy about proposed catch quotas

About 1.4 million Britons enjoy sea fishing, creating about 20,000 jobs in the process.

The newly-formed Angling Trust has promised to fight the EU proposals all the way and is encouraging recreational fishermen to contact their MEPs.

Trust member Leon Roskilly, from Rainham, said: "We would like the two sectors [commercial and recreational] to be regulated differently and more appropriately, because if this goes through it will have a hell of an impact on the sport.

"We're having meetings with Defra and the European Anglers' Alliance to see what can be done.

"We're talking about the EU here so there's a possibility they won't listen, but there's been a furore over this.

"Whoever came up with this regulation can't have imagined they would receive such a reaction."

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Saturday 28th February
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Billy Ocean in Concert
Friday 6th March
Another Schooltime Spectacular "The American Dream"
Monday 9th – Wednesday 11th March
Jeckyll & Hyde
Sunday 15th March
The All Stars Band "20th Annual Charity Concert"
Friday 20th March
LEMAR in Concert
Saturday 21st March
Bjorn Again
APRIL 2009
Saturday 4th April
Disco Inferno
Sunday 5th April
The Enemy in Concert
Friday 10th & Saturday 11th April
Thanet Beer Festival
Saturday 18th April
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Sunday 19th April
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Drive safely this winter and STAY SAFE

It's pretty obvious that driving in winter is trickier than driving during the rest of the year, but are you doing everything you can to make your journey safer?

It's darker for longer in winter, the sun is low in the sky, and winter weather brings its own set of challenges! However, there are simple steps you can take to make your journey safer:

- Check your lights are working and keep them clean. Clean windows and mirrors before every journey too.
- Keep your sunglasses to hand to combat low winter sunshine.
- Check the weather forecast before you set off. In extreme weather conditions consider if your journey is essential, or if other arrangements can be made.
- Make sure you have enough fuel for the journey, top up the screen wash bottle and check your tyres are at the right pressure and in good condition.
- When ice or snow is a factor, Kent Highways Services works hard to treat the county's roads, but please remember that a treated road isn't the same as a clear, dry road. You'll still need to drive appropriately for the conditions and take extra care.
- Drive at a safe and sensible speed – stopping in the wet can take twice the distance and stopping distances in ice or snow can be ten times further!
- Carry an ice scraper, de-icer, a torch, a high-vis safety vest and a shovel when snow is forecast.
- Adjust your driving style to avoid harsh braking or acceleration.

Remember that getting there safely is far better than getting hurt or not getting there at all.

Vehicle Crossovers – the gateway to more space!

With the high-demand for on-street parking spaces, it's not surprising that putting in a vehicle crossover is popular with property owners. A vehicle crossover lets you reach your property safely and easily with a vehicle. It means that kerbs are dropped from their normal height and the pavement or verge is strengthened to take the weight of a car or other vehicle.

To have a vehicle crossover, you need to apply to Kent Highway Services for the works to be arranged because pavements may have pipes or cables buried under them that need to be protected. It's worth remembering that if you carry out the work yourself and cause damage, you'll be liable for the cost of repairs! Installing a vehicle crossover without applying to us is also illegal and could ultimately lead to prosecution.

There is an application fee for a vehicle crossover, and it includes checks with utility companies and a site inspection to make sure that the crossover is built to the correct standards.

If you're considering a crossover, we can send you an application pack that tells you everything you need to know. For more information and guidance, contact us on **08458 247 800** or download the application pack from **www.kent.gov.uk/highways**

Kent Freedom Pass rolls into Swale and Thanet

If you're a young person at school in Swale or Thanet, you probably already know that the Kent Freedom Pass has arrived in your area. If you haven't already got a pass, you can apply for one now and application forms are available from your school.

There is normally an annual fee of £50, but because the scheme has arrived part way through the school year, you can get a Kent Freedom Pass in these areas for an introductory fee of £25. It will be valid until the end of August 2009.

The scheme is already proving popular and, at the beginning of the January term, 1,241 passes had been issued to students in Swale and Thanet.

The Kent Freedom Pass scheme will be countywide from June when it becomes available in Ashford, Dartford, Gravesham and Sevenoaks.

Kent Freedom Pass offers unlimited travel anytime, anywhere, for all Kent young people in academic years 7 - 11 who are at school in those areas. It also means greater independence for young people and lower congestion on the county's roads. The resulting reduced fuel costs could also prove an effective credit-crunch buster for many families in Kent this year.

More information is available by contacting us on **08458 247 800,** by emailing us at **kentfreedompass@kent.gov.uk**

Travel Update

These are roadworks and events that may cause some disruptions. Please remember that these are planned works and other emergency works may be required.

Kent Highway Services

District	Start	Finish	Road	Reason
Thanet	26.1.09	26.1.09	Haine Road, Ramsgate	Temporary traffic lights - carriageway works
Sevenoaks	26.1.09	6.2.09	Orpington by-pass Road, Shoreham	Temporary traffic lights - energy supply works
Canterbury	26.1.09	3.4.09	Seasalter Road, Graveney	Road closure - energy supply works
Dartford	27.1.09	9.2.09	Southfleet Road, Swanscombe	Temporary traffic lights - energy supply works
Dover	29.1.09	29.1.09	London Road, Temple Ewell	Temporary traffic lights - drainage works

For details of other roadworks in Kent please visit www.kent.gov.uk/travel

For more information, please call 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Nintendo 'piracy duo' face law

CONSOLE HERO: Mario and (below) a Nintendo DS console

Game is up for husband and wife team suspected of selling fake DS consoles and games on web

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A KENT couple are the first in the UK to be arrested for selling fake Nintendo DS games consoles.

It's claimed the pair made £50,000 in December alone.

They were picked up by investigators determined to clamp down on video game pirates.

They allegedly seized 40 counterfeit Nintendo DS handheld consoles from the pair after watching internet auctions on eBay.

Officials said the husband and wife team come from the Bromley area.

The seizure of 40 counterfeit Nintendo DS consoles is the first instance of its kind in the UK, investigators said.

The raid on Tuesday was by investigators from Bromley Trading Standards Department and local police.

They said the consoles were packaged with potentially dangerous power units as well as game copying devices.

In addition, 150 counterfeit games for the DS and Game Boy Advance systems as well as two laptops and a PC tower were seized at the couple's home.

Invoices allegedly revealed the couple had traded online over a two-year period using different identities, officers said.

The early stages of financial investigation suggest a profit of more than £50,000 may have been made by the couple in December, 2008, alone.

Negative impact

During a test purchase made on eBay this year, illegally copied Nintendo DS games were purchased for £40. This is the first instance of counterfeit games consoles being found for sale within the UK, investigators said.

Michael Rawlinson, managing director of the Entertainment and Leisure Software Publishers Association, said: "The replication of video games software and hardware is illegal and has a negative impact on local and national businesses.

"ELSPA would like to thank the thorough and professional investigation by Bromley Trading Standards department and local police."

Colin Bloom, Bromley's portfolio holder for public protection and community safety, added: "This authority will tackle any traders operating in the informal economy in order to protect honest local businesses as well as consumers."

A Proceeds of Crime Act investigation has already begun to estimate any potential criminal gain.

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Punk life revisited

How town's anarchists achieved notoriety

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE anarchy and anti-establishment ideology of the punk rock movement provided a welcome distraction from the daily grind of suburban life in Kent for a group of misfit music fans.

An early Sex Pistols gig at Ravensbourne College, Chislehurst, in 1975 sparked the creation of what was to become known as the Bromley Contingent, many of whom would go on to form bands themselves as the scene gained momentum.

In a 2001, 3:AM magazine interview one of the members, Bertie 'Berlin' Marshall, reflected that the band's manager, the entrepreneur Malcolm McLaren, had wanted to create a scene around the Pistols like the Factory in New York around Andy Warhol and the Velvet Underground.

Notable members of the Bromley Contingent included among others Siouxsie Sioux, Jordan, Debbie Juvenile, Billy Idol, Steve Severin, Berlin Marshall, Simone Thomas and Simon Barker.

On the website Punk 77, Severin is quoted saying of the beginning: "When our paths crossed the group's it was more a meeting of the minds.

"It was never so much that we were fans as they just happened to be guys who played in a group... Although it may seem unusual for a band to be close to their fans, we became more like friends since things hadn't really gotten to the stage where the notoriety had set in."

PUNK IDOLS: (l-r) The Bromley Contingent, Billy Idol and Siouxsie Sioux at their peak

The scene, led by the raw and chaotic Sex Pistols, was about youthful rebellion, spontaneity and an anti-authoritarian stance that swept aside established politics, commercialism, gender roles and political correctness.

While The Clash, Buzzcocks and The Damned contributed musically, their fans took the lead fashion-wise from the Contingent, who dropped Bromley's faceless High Street for Chelsea's Kings Road and the famous 100 Club in Oxford Street.

To some they were 'hangers on' and were described by New Musical Express (NME) writers Julie Burchill and Tony Parson as "a posse of unrepentant poseurs, committed to attaining fame despite the paucity of talent other then being noticed…" in their book, The Boy Looked At Johnny.

But to Contingent members such as Idol, who found international success with his band Generation X and lasting fame as a solo artist, the arrival of the Pistols in leafy Bromley was an awakening.

"They were what we wanted to happen," he said. "If we could visualise the rock band of the mid-seventies, it was in front of us – The Sex Pistols."

It was not just a new generation of angry and disillusioned young men who took to the stage causing chaos and creativity; women were involved in the scene as more than just passive groupies.

As Punk 77 states: "These girls/women weren't seen as sex symbols with a curvy figures or a page-three glamour girl, though some oozed sex appeal in spades.

"They were seen as more rabid, St Trinian's vamps, out to holler a defiant yell from the confines of controlled society."

At the centre of the Contingent was Siouxsie Sioux (Susan Ballion), who formed Siouxsie and the Banshees along with Severin in 1976. They played their first gig at the 100 Club punk festival, which included a 15-minute rendition of the Lord's Prayer with Sid Vicious playing the drums.

She was famed for her high leg kicking on stage as well as her swastika armband, designed to shock and provoke. She also pioneered wearing fetish and bondage gear and death-like makeup, which would later influence the goth scene.

YOUTHFUL REBELLION: Steve Severin says the Bromley Contingent was a meeting of minds and (below) the cover of the first Siouxsie and the Banshees' single

The band's first single, Hong Kong Garden, was released in 1978 and named after a takeaway in Chislehurst High Street where Siouxsie had seen the Chinese staff terrorised by skinheads.

The Bromley Contingent were thrust to media notoriety after members, including Sioux and Severin, appeared on the Bill Grundy show on ITV with the Pistols in 1976.

The band's original line-up, Johnny Rotten, Steve Jones, Glen Matlock and Paul Cook and the Contingent, after much goading from Grundy, shattered the squeaky clean image of British television by swearing live on air.

After the presenter tried to 'chat up' Sioux, asking if they could meet after the show, it ends with Jones labelling him a "f***ing rotter!" The tabloids, their readers and much of the country were outraged.

But like all successful counterculture movements, punk evolved and mutated into the very thing it was once the antithesis of: commercial and mainstream.

At one point the Daily Mail, the prudish embodiment of middle Britain normality, ran an article on 'How to turn yourself into a punk'.

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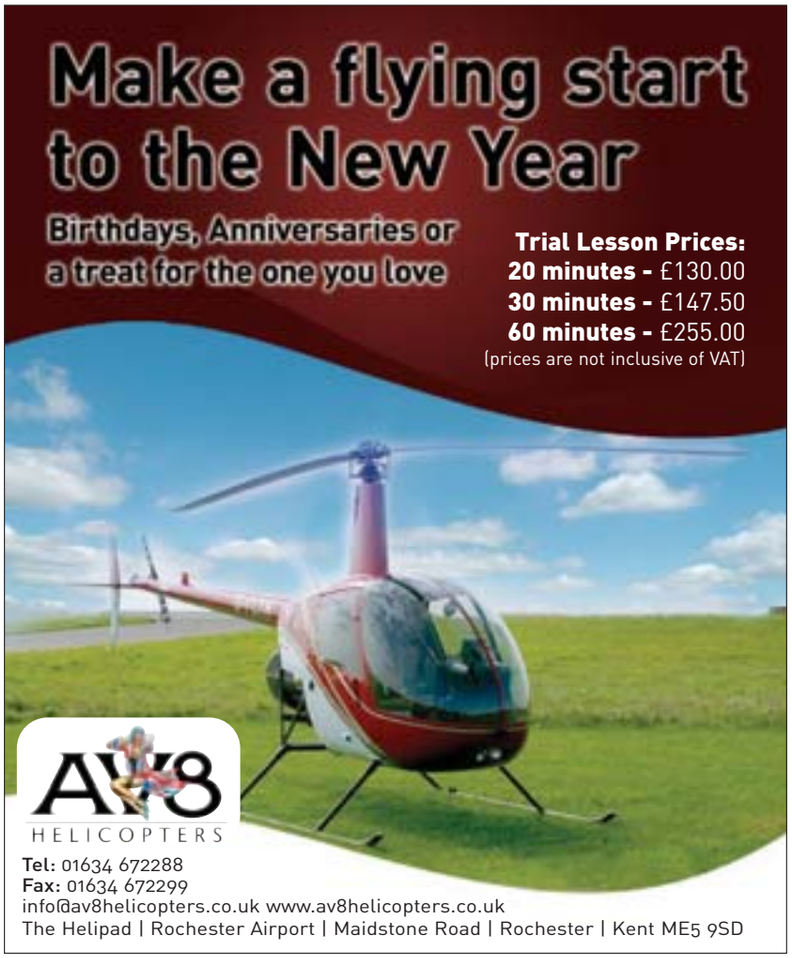

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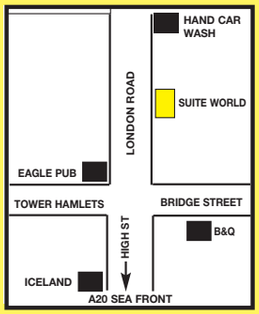

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'Gherkin' tower plan felled

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

PLANS for a 33-storey Gravesend 'Gherkin' in the town's heritage quarter have been dropped amid a storm of controversy and protest.

Gravesham Borough Council announced that an application for the riverside tower, which was to include 223 apartments and a restaurant, was withdrawn by developer Edinburgh House Estates on Tuesday.

Council leader Cllr Mike Snelling said: "The cabinet has agreed that, as far as the executive is concerned, the tower is now dead.

"We always said we would listen and act after consultations. That is exactly what we have done."

However, campaigners have criticised the consultation carried out by the council and Edinburgh House Estates. Cllr Snelling claimed the agreement to withdraw the tower from the £150 million regeneration scheme was a "triumph of process over protest".

Campaigners protested against the tower, which was labelled the 'Gravesend Gherkin' after the iconic Swiss Re building in London, because of its scale, size and location.

A demonstration was held at the developer's London offices, a Facebook group was set up and last summer opponents gathered at the green area where the tower would have been built, all in protest over the scheme.

Campaign group Urban Gravesham called the controversial tower an "oversized monster" and a petition against the building collected more than 6,000 signatures.

Martin McKay, the group's vice-chairman, said: "We are delighted. It is a victory for people power. The council and the developers have seen sense to drop it. However, we still want assurances that the green space, St Nicholas Gardens, where the tower would have been built, will be protected.

"Secondly, our understanding is that the council and the developers wish to proceed.

"The rest of the scheme has its own problems and instead of rushing forward, what we would like to happen is for the council to organise workshops for local people, businesses, English Heritage and the developers to work out the principles for regeneration."

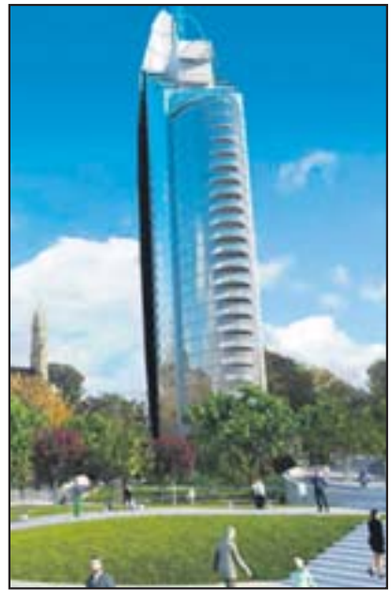
He claimed the proposals had exposed divisions in the town and the withdrawal of the tower provided a hiatus for proper consultation over the regeneration.

Martin Wilson, the heritage spokesman for Gravesham Liberal Democrats, said: "Criticism must be levelled at the way our bungling council has handled the matter. In moving it forward, we will work to ensure that the council consults legally and properly with residents."

English Heritage also objected to the tower, saying it was "detrimental to Gravesend's historic sense of place".

Cllr Snelling said proposals for the rest of the multi-million pound regeneration would go before the council's planning committee. "We always said we would provide a regeneration scheme that was right for Gravesend," he said.

"We have listened to the reasoned concerns of the public and not been blown off-course by an element of knee-jerk protest. It is now just as important that we continue the process properly. The scheme must still get fair, impartial, independent and non-partisan consideration."



HIGH AND MIGHTY: Artist's drawing of how the Gravesend tower would have looked

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Could your village be Kent's best?

MORE THAN LOOKS: Community spirit is key to winning the Calor Village of the Year award

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

RURAL communities across the Garden of England have been urged to enter the 2009 Kent Village of the Year awards.

The annual competition is billed as a celebration of country life and is judged by 'community spirit' over pretty window boxes and neatly-mowed lawns.

A spokeswoman for Calor, which funds and runs the awards, said: "The competition provides rural communities with a platform to tell others about their village success, whether related to inspirational people, local business initiatives or innovative communication methods.

"It's about recognising, rewarding and encouraging vibrant and sustainable village communities which pull together and make the best of local opportunities."

Burham, near Rochester, currently holds the village of the year title in Kent and East Peckham, Minster-in-Thanet, Bredhurst and Charing were all recognised in the other categories.

The spokeswoman offered advice to hopeful entries on why the judges thought the successful village was special.

She said: "Burham has a lot to offer its residents whatever their age or ability. It has its a primary school, doctor's surgery, Post Office with a shop that offers tea and coffee, a village baker, garage and a competitively priced petrol station, a Chinese takeaway, Indian restaurant and a number of friendly pubs."

Villages must have population of less than 5,000 to enter and any resident or the parish council can apply.

Judges said they would be looking for villages that are "thriving and that have a mutually supportive environment".

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Work scheme for disadvantaged

MORE people with learning disabilities should have the opportunity to work, the minister for disabled people has urged.

Jonathan Shaw, the MP for Chatham and Aylesford, spoke to KOS Media during a visit to a Government-funded project in Kent aimed at exploring the support people with learning disabilities need to get the skills and training that lead to paid jobs.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

"Not enough has been done in the past so we are redoubling out efforts, putting in resources working in partnership with councils like Kent and Medway," he said.

"It is about raising expectations. If there is no expectation amongst the people working with people with learning disabilities, it is hardly surprising they do not have any expectations.

"We need to make sure they have the confidence to fulfil more ambitions and enjoy a lifestyle that is good for them, their families, and all of us."

Mr Shaw, a former social worker, met representatives from Kent County Council, Medway council, young people with learning disabilities and others involved with the Getting a Life project in Maidstone on Monday.

The project, launched in April last year, is running alongside nine others in local authority areas around the country, and aims to establish best practice in terms of giving more people with learning disabilities opportunities to work.

He said: "More employment opportunities are important because work is good for us, it gives us friendships and it is not just about money – it fulfils us.

"Feeling tired at the end of the day is good, without work there is a huge gap in our lives and despite the economic downturn it is important to continue these programmes."

St Nicholas, a special school in Canterbury is part of the project.

Pupils Kelly Bamber, 17, and Mollie Boxall, 16, who both have learning disabilities, have chaired their own reviews at the school and set out what they want to do in the future.

"I want to work with children and have been doing one day a week unsupported work experience at the local nursery," Kelly said.

OPPORTUNITIES: MP Jonathan Shaw with (left) Andrew Evans and John Fagg (right) at catering projects Freeways and Table Talk

Mollie, who will be going to Canterbury College, said: "I wanted to go into further education but I'm not sure what I want to do yet. I enjoy drama and performance."

Catering services Freeways and Tabletalk give people with learning disabilities a chance to learn skills through work experience.

"I'm enjoying it," said worker Andrew Evens, who is on a placement. "At the moment I've got three different jobs including one doing ground maintenance.

"It's varied and I like doing something different everyday."

By the end of the project in 2011, it is hoped more people with learning disabilities in Kent and Medway will be in mainstream employment and the best ways of training people and finding them employment will be been established.

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Pole explorers overtake ancestors

Antarctic trekkers succeed where their illustrious relatives failed

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

AN ADVENTURER who walked 900 miles to the South Pole says he is pleased to have settled some unfinished family business.

City worker Will Gow, from Ashford, is a descendent of the legendary Nimrod explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, who a century ago abandoned his attempt to become the first man to complete the trek across Antarctica.

But 35-year-old Mr Gow and his two companions surpassed their ancestors by reaching the South Pole earlier this week.

Mr Gow told KOS Media: "It was quite a relief to complete the challenge after 66 days of travelling. It's been a fantastic experience and we are all pretty shattered.

"It was tougher than I expected and we experienced temperatures as low as -50C. Living in those conditions was challenging but we spent five years training for it, which paid dividends.

"Ernest Shackleton was my great-great uncle, and he got to within 97 miles of the South Pole. To beat that mark and then go all the way was a unique opportunity for us and a great way to celebrate the centenary of his attempt."

Mr Gow's two companions on the expedition were Henry Adams, 33, from Suffolk, and Lt Col Henry Worsley, 47, from Hereford.

Mr Adams is the great-great grandson of Shackleton's number two, Jameson Adams, while Mr Worsley is a descendant of skipper Frank Worsley.

Rather than follow the route to the South Pole taken by most people who venture there today, the team decided to stick to the tougher path their ancestors took back in 1909 – one that only two groups have completed since.

Mr Gow said: "It was emotional when we reached the end, yet slightly anticlimactic at the same time. But once we started to soak up the atmosphere of being at the South Pole, it felt very rewarding after all the effort we put in.

"I just can't wait to get back to the UK now so I can see my girlfriend Louise and my father."

The expedition also marked the launch of the £10 million Shackleton Foundation, which will fund projects that "capture the explorer's spirit and hunger for calculated risk".

Mr Gow said: "Part of the reason we did this was to mark the centenary of the golden age of exploration, but we also wanted to complete unfinished family business and leave a legacy for future generations.

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FINAL DESTINATION: (l-r) Henry Worsley, Will Gow and Henry Adams at the South Pole

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FORMER health boss Rose Gibb will be at the High Court on Monday to seek a £250,000 payout from her former employer.

Gibb was at the helm of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Trust during two outbreaks of Clostridium difficile that led to the deaths of 90 patients.

Health secretary Alan Johnson stopped the trust giving Ms Gibb a six-figure payout after she resigned due to the scandal.

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Depraved pair jailed for 20 years of child abuse

TWO paedophile brothers have been jailed for life for what a judge described as "some of the gravest crimes committed against children", ***writes Steve Knight***.

Lee Wicks, 41, from Sheppey, and Colin Wicks, 46, from Chatham, were found guilty of a total of 33 different sexual offences including rape and indecent assault.

The attacks took place over the course of a 20-year period.

Both were sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday, as well as 42-year-old Tina Butcher, from Gillingham, who helped Lee Wicks rape one of the victims.

She was jailed for eight years.

PREDATORS: (left to right) Brothers Colin and Lee Wicks both received life sentences while Tina Butcher, who aided Lee in one of his attacks, was given eight year in prison

Upon sentencing the trio, Judge Philip Statman said the brothers had treated their victims as "sex toys to satisfy their sexual proclivities" and had "deprived them of their childhood at a time when they were young and vulnerable".

The brothers must serve at least nine-and-a-half years of their sentences before being considered for parole, and Butcher at least four.

All three were found guilty of their crimes at the end of a seven-week trial in November.

Bravery

Lee Wicks was convicted of 25 different sexual offences, including rape, sexual assault of a child, indecency with a child and indecent assault.

Colin Wicks was found guilty of eight different offences, including rape, incitement to commit a serious sexual offence, indecency with a child and indecent assault.

The trio will all have to sign the sex offenders' register upon their release from prison and will remain on it for life.

None will ever be allowed to work with children.

Det Con John Milham, who led the two-and-a-half year investigation, said: "These three individuals cast a net of depraved sexual terror which spanned two decades and involved the sexual abuse of numerous children, some of whom were so young that they were still in nappies when the abuse began.

"This inquiry has been a long and difficult one, but it would not have been possible without the sheer bravery of the victims, and they should be commended for their courage in coming forward to report these crimes.

"Without them, this case may never have come to court.

"I hope the sentences handed down will allow the victims of these crimes to continue to rebuild their lives, safe in the knowledge that these three will remain in prison for a significant time. Every child matters and those who decide to abuse children will be pursued by police, no matter how long ago those crimes were committed."

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Panto's a record-breaking success

BOSSES at the Marlowe Theatre are on a high after a record-breaking 81,425 people saw Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

The panto ended last Sunday after 91 performances and was the last to be staged at the theatre before its closure in March for major refurbishment, which is expected to take two years.

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Antiques and arts market feels the chill

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

CITY job losses and the stagnant housing market have been blamed for a fall in contemporary art prices across the South East.

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) said its latest survey, published on Tuesday, showed the economic downturn and biting recession were now hitting the arts and antiques markets.

In the last three months of 2009, about 40 per cent more surveyors reported a fall in prices. That contrasts sharply with figures from the previous three monthd, during which the same percentage reported that prices had risen.

Peter Miller, director of RICS South East, said: "The difficult financial situation is affecting all parts of the economy and art and antiques are no exception, although the downturn has not been nearly as dramatic as in other industries.

"The contemporary art sector has soared in the last few years and we are now in the midst of a correction."

Despite the global financial markets being in crisis, artist Damien Hirst made a record £95.7 million from a sale of his works at London auction house Sotheby's in September, last year.

Mr Miller said: "The slowdown in the amount of goods offered at auction reflects the lack of activity in the housing market.

"However, as prices and sellers become more realistic, savvy investors will look to lower priced goods from 'traditional' sectors such as antique furniture.

"Investors will continue to become more selective in their purchases as buyers look to the industry as an alternative source of investment.

Judi Lancefield, of Kent Auction Galleries in Folkestone, said prices had been falling since the start of the credit crunch and sales have been attracting more people.

"It is a very positive time for the buyers," she said. "We are even taking bookings from people from Essex."

He husband, David, an auctioneer at the house, said: "Jewellery is very strong at the moment. As the pound sinks and the dollar gets stronger, gold is on a dollar fix price, so the price goes up.

"People are transferring cash into gold – the value has gone up again as I speak – rather than leaving it in the bank where it is doing nothing."

The RICS survey found that only one per cent more surveyors reported a fall in lot prices for jewellery in the last quarter.

Vendors were advised to become more realistic in their expectations in order to achieve sales as buyers become more selective.

Raj Bisram, managing director of Bentley's Fine Art Auctioneers in Cranbrook, said the antiques market had been suffering since the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001.

"The downturn in antiques started after 9/11," he said. "The market is led by the Americans and they stopped coming. That was the start of the downturn.

"Now, that is being compounded by the global economic problems."

RICS said its survey showed the top end of the antiques and arts market, particularly contemporary works, had remained strong, but the high volume of job losses in the financial services sector was now having an impact.

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ON THE SHELF: The downturn has hit prices in the art and antiques sector, RICS says

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Cherry-picking pest

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

HUNGRY CATERPILLAR: Scientists are looking at ways to prevent the light brown apple moth (left) from destroying cherry crops

SCIENTISTS in Kent hope to protect the UK's cherry crops by recreating the sex chemical of a new type of pest.

The caterpillar of the light brown apple moth was first spotted feeding on Cornwall's red cascade shrubs in 1936, but over the past decade it has spread across the country after adapting to new plants and climates.

While pesticides provide protection from its caterpillars for most fruits, cherries remain at risk during the summer because the sprays they receive at that time of the year do not contain the necessary ingredients to combat the pest.

Dr Jerry Cross, an entomologist at West Malling Research, believes chemicals released by the female of the species to attract her mate could provide a solution.

He said: "Over the next few years I hope to be working on a sex pheromone control method.

"We could synthesise the pheromone and release it into the environment so the males are confused and can't find the females. Hopefully, that would prevent them mating because they would be overwhelmed by it all.

"Another obvious advantage is this technique will not be harmful to the atmosphere."

In 2007, the Horticultural Development Company (HDC) received temporary permission to use the chemical indoxacarb to protect cherry crops, but this expired last August.

More data is needed on the insecticide to convince the Pesticides Safety Directorate the permission should be extended, although Dr Cross is confident the issue will soon be resolved.

He said: "One of the problems is we only grow about five per cent of the cherries we eat in this country, so there's a lack of urgency to find a solution even though our cherries are wonderful.

"But it is a problem because it can be hard for growers to tell which of their crops have been damaged, and people tend not to like buying cherries with caterpillars in them."

When Dr Cross carried out a survey to determine the pest's presence in cherry orchards in Kent, Hereford, Oxfordshire and Somerset in 1994, he drew a blank. But when he repeated the exercise in 2005 he found it in every orchard studied.

He said: "For some reason, after staying in the same location for years, the moth's biology seemed to change and it adapted to a variety of different hosts. Perhaps it had something to do with a couple of hot summers.

"It's a most peculiar creature."

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'I don't want children to suffer the way I did'

Cerebral palsy sufferer pens guide to special needs

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

AN OCCUPATIONAL therapist at a Kent university has drawn on her own experience to create a guide for teachers and parents supporting children with special educational needs.

Sarah Barratt hopes her first book – The Special Educator's Tool Kit – will give an insight into the challenges faced by children with learning and physical disabilities at school.

She was born with a mild form of cerebral palsy, a condition that affects movement, and has secondary visual difficulties.

"I realise that one's experiences of special needs may be different," she said. "But my own unique position of being a person with special needs and working as a therapist with special needs have fuelled my desire to write this book.

"In my case, being a child with special needs meant my school days were far from the best days of my life – they were more like a mission to conquer Mount Everest.

"My personal experiences in education and the impact of my own special needs left me with a fervent desire to help children in similar situations get more out of their school experience."

The 35-year-old, a senior occupational therapy lecturer at Canterbury Christ Church University, was inspired to write the book after working in India – but it is also very personal.

She said: "I want to ensure that no child suffers the same frustrations I did, as my needs were not fully recognised."

Ms Barratt told how her work as an occupational therapist had taken her across several continents during 10 years of clinical practice, including to Chennai, formerly Madras, in India, working at a school for children with cerebral palsy.

"The institute was a branch of the Spastic Society [now Scope] providing training courses for people who made an innovative contribution to teaching the children," she said.

SELF-HELP: Sarah Barratt's book offers practical advice on special needs care

"The teachers said they had no book to refer to and fuel their understanding of the clinical presentations of the children who came there.

"They said they also liked the equipment we had been designing to help the children learn and that is where the idea for the book came from."

Ms Barratt recognised that there had been a lot of progress in teaching children with special educational needs (SEN) since she was at school. She said: "There are now different initiatives that promote integrated practice across health and education between teachers, therapists and parents working together to get the best experience for children in their care.

"I believe the policies that have come up, such as Every Child Matters, about integrated services across the specialties helping children stay safe and achieve the things they want to, are great but we need to work towards promoting inclusive structures and services across the board."

Education experts and professionals have long debated whether all children with SEN should be integrated into mainstream schools instead of special schools.

"I worked in a special school," Ms Barratt said. "One has to look at each child based on their individual set of needs and what the child wants to do with their life.

"If it they need more support to achieve these things, we need to make sure we are working to provide that wherever possible."

The book gives 'how-to' and step-by-step guides and the principles and practical applications can be translated and applied across cultures.

She added: "It is also a personal testimony to the fact special needs can become an asset rather than a hindrance. It's a privilege and joy to see this book being published all over the world."

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

An explosive case

TENS of thousands of servicemen took part in a series of nuclear tests carried out by the British Government in the 1950s without questioning their orders.

At the time, the young men did not know about the dangers of radiation, but now many believe the ill-health they have suffered since is a result of their exposure to nuclear weapons.

Of 2,500 ex-servicemen surveyed in 1999, 30 per cent had died, mostly in their fifties, from cancer. Their sons, daughters and grandchildren were found to have suffered from skeletal abnormalities and spina bifida.

Almost 1,000 veterans have now taken their case to the High Court in what would be an unprecedented multi-million pound compensation claim if they are successful.

But the Ministry of Defence is attempting to snuff out the veterans' claims and attempts to prove a link between their illnesses and their exposure to radiation during the tests.

The MoD claims it is too late for them to claim compensation, a legality it has never raised since the case started in 2002.

But it should be decided by the evidence not a technicality in a case where so many seem to have suffered for serving their country.

Don't take EU bait

PLANS to limit the amount of fish recreational anglers can catch is another in a seemingly endless list of ridiculous EU decisions.

Such legislation could ruin boat charter companies and tackle shops in Kent that rely on the popularity of the sport to survive.

Brussels must realise every country has different problems, and a solution for one will not always work in another.

OPINION: The greening of the Blues

A Government that misses its own carbon emissions targets cannot be trusted to lead us in an age of energy insecurity, says Greg Clark

IN 1997, Labour made a manifesto promise to cut carbon emissions by 20 per cent by 2010.

Twelve years into a Labour Government, carbon emissions have been cut – by less than one per cent.

Our dependence on fossil fuel is not a reliable option for Britain's future. We need to make the transition to locally produced, inexhaustible, low-carbon energy.

After a decade of dithering, the Government has failed to make even the most elementary preparations for this era of energy insecurity.

Only a comprehensive shift in the way in which we produce and consume energy will enable us to achieve so ambitious a goal.

That is why, in 2009, the Conservatives are setting out a durable policy framework for the electrification of transport; dramatic improvements in energy efficiency; and a massive expansion in renewables, bioenergy and combined heat and power.

The Low Carbon Economy is our comprehensive plan to take Britain beyond dependence on fossil fuels and achieve an 80 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Conservatives want to show that Britain can affordably and responsibly make the changes we need to meet our climate change commitments.

The plans include a new entitlement for every home to be fitted immediately with up to £6,500 of approved energy efficiency improvements, leading to reductions of about £160 in the gas and electricity bills of participating households.

Energy bills have risen sharply over the last two years, twice as fast in the UK as in the rest of the EU. In the South East the average annual dual-fuel bill is £1,260.

The most recent figures allow us to estimate that roughly 457,286 households in the South East are in fuel poverty; that is, spending more than more than 10 per cent of their income on domestic energy. But a national programme of energy efficiency installation could make a real difference for millions for families.

And we want to see a revolution in the way electricity is generated and used. We would equip businesses and households with 'smart meters' which would allow them to monitor their energy consumption in great detail and allow them to access cheaper tariffs. For example, appliances could be triggered automatically at off-peak times to benefit from lower tariffs. This would reduce bills, and, by spreading the load more evenly throughout the day, cut the amount of wasted capacity in the grid.

A smart grid that adjusted demand to meet supply would also allow greater use of renewable energy, which is valuable but intermittent – such as marine power.

Britain has the best offshore wind, wave and tidal resources in Europe, yet no other major European country produces less of its energy from renewable sources. This isn't just a missed opportunity for the environment, it's a missed opportunity for the economy. Today, despite our traditional strengths, British firms have less than a five per cent share of the global market for green goods and services. That's less than France, Germany, Japan and the United States. With climate change-related industries estimated to be worth more than $500 billion a year by 2050, we are missing out on what could be the most important source of sustainable economic growth in 21st century.

The good news is that Britain is rich in the innovation and entrepreneurship that can make all of this happen. All that is required is a government willing to get behind this movement for change, provide the right incentives, invest in the enabling infrastructure and remove the regulatory hurdles. The Low Carbon Economy is our plan for doing just that.

• ***Greg Clark is the Conservative MP for Tunbridge Wells and shadow secretary of state for energy and climate change.***

It'll be a rough ride, Vic

In the ongoing debate about the merits of traffic calming, I think Vic Ride should be very careful about what he wishes for.

While traffic-calming schemes can be difficult to obtain, they are almost impossible to remove once installed.

I speak from bitter experience, because the residents of Coxheath have suffered two years of misery caused by a half-baked scheme which has reduced a busy but safe road to a gridlocked accident black spot.

We now have campaigns and petitions to get this mess removed and the road returned to its original condition.

The scheme was introduced after a long campaign by Coxheath Parish Council about a perceived speeding problem.

The 'solution' was to build seven road blocks on the main road through the village, which force single alternate passing and create totally unacceptable delays during the rush hour. It can now take 15 minutes just to get out of the village in the morning. There have been many accidents at these road blocks and, while I take the point that people should drive with due care and attention, it can be difficult to negotiate these obstructions at night, in fog or when facing strong winter sun.

Our traffic-calming scheme has been 'work in progress' from day one, with Kent Highways throwing good money after bad trying to make it viable. I believe the original cost was £130,000 with goodness knows how much extra spent on adjustments and repairs. Coxheath's roads and footpaths are in very poor condition and I can't help but feel this money could have been better spent.

Richard Purves, Coxheath, Maidstone

We cannot hand Gurkhas a blank cheque, Joanna

I am puzzled by the fuss being made in your newspaper by former actress, former model and former Kent resident Joanna Lumley about the entitlements of former Nepalese mercenaries in the British Army.

It seems from your story that the Gurkhas will be allowed to come here to live even though the Ministry of Defence admits "there is no data readily available to give reliable estimate of the number of dependants for this group of Gurkha veterans". So Ms Lumley should be pleased that all these Nepalese people have a blank cheque to come and live here. And the Lib Dem candidate for Maidstone is pleased that "many will work here".

Amid all these vague good feelings, one thing is certain – there will be even greater downward pressure on wages.

Quentin Williamson, Dartford

Everybody calm down

Yes, Mr Ride, I do live in a quiet road, (Letters, January 18) and I expect that is why my house cost more than a similar one on a busy road. But, like everybody else, I do not own the road or have a say in who uses it. It is part of our national road system that we all pay for through taxes. Is he asking motorists to drive another two miles into Canterbury's congested roads, and the same again out of the city, for the sole purpose of not driving past his house?

It is a wide road and a bus route and suitable for the traffic it carries. We would all like less traffic, but who is going to stop driving?

Perhaps Mr Ride would like to make a start, that way he would not be driving and annoying other residents by driving down 'their' road. Barring motorways and some lengths of dual carriageway, all roads go past somebody's house. Should all these roads be calmed? People often find that traffic calming increases vibration and noise, as vehicles slow down and accelerate away. And as there is no practical alternative in this case, this will not deter drivers from using the road, which is usually residents' main aim.

As for "due care and attention", how do you exercise this when trying to exit a junction where the view is obscured by foliage the highway authority has failed in its legal duty to clear?

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Groups' tortured logic

It is interesting to witness how the Palestinian solidarity groups are responding to reports of the torture of hundreds of Palestinian Fatah members by Hamas terrorists – or rather how they are not responding.

When groups are so outspoken when it comes to Israeli actions, and so deafeningly quiet and disinterested when Palestinians suffer at the hands of anyone else, one has to question the groups' agendas.

Are they primarily interested in defending the Palestinians, or criticising Israel? There is, sadly, a great difference between the two.

Michelle Moshelian, Givatayim, Israel

Loss of faith in Israel

How can there ever be peace between the Israelis and Palestinians when all the Palestinians have of what was their own land until 1948 is an enclave on the West Bank and Gaza, a concentration camp – and I use the word advisedly. If Israel really wants peace, instead of total control, give the Palestinians their own state of Palestine.

I had experience of Jewish brutality in 1945-48 when serving with the British Army.

Our HQ, the King David Hotel, was blown up, as were British troop trains. The Jewish terrorists' most vile crime was when they captured a British sergeant. They tortured him, killed him and hung him from a tree, with booby traps on his body and the ground.

I lost more comrades to Jewish terrorists than the 40 relatives I lost in the Holocaust. My Jewish grandfather and mother told me to be proud of England, a country that had given us freedom, but not to forget my Jewish roots. I have lost faith in both.

David Morby, Erith

Under the flightpath

An open letter to KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter: Greetings from sunny Ramsgate.

The planned expansion of Manston airport into a regional hub may well bring economic benefits a-plenty to Thanet, but it will also have a major impact on Ramsgate in the form of noise pollution. This is a beautiful

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YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

WIND FARM NEWS REGARDING A256

Last November Vattenfall bought the Thanet Wind Farm project and now the visible construction work begins. When complete in 2010 the wind farm will generate enough green energy for 240,000 homes and Thanet will boast the largest wind farm in the world.

On 6th February the installation of the onshore cables along the A256 will start. This is one of the first exciting steps towards receiving energy from the offshore turbines. There were trials of the traffic management scheme on the A256 last year. After consultation with Kent Highway Services, Thanet District Council and Dover District Council it was decided that it would be best for the work to be carried out 24 hours a day over weekends only. It will begin at 19:00 (7:00pm) on Friday evenings with each section of work being completed by 06:00 (6:00am) on Monday mornings. The work will begin near the former Richborough Power Station and finish at Pegwell Bay in November.

This is an exciting development for the local area. Vattenfall is the fifth largest energy producer in Europe and one of the biggest wind power operators in Britain. The total investment for completing the wind farm is in the order of £780 million. Vattenfall apologises for any inconvenience the road works may cause. A new web site will be launched in the next few days that will give information about the wind farm and include regular updates on the progress of its construction. Information for the local road users will also be included. The address is www.vattenfall.com/thanetwind.

For further information, please contact:
Mandy Broughton, Local Representative, Vattenfall
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CLEAN SAFE HEALTHY

Letters continued from page 31

and historic town, struggling to get back on its feet after years of hardship. It has a fine harbour, a sandy beach, stunning architecture and decent schools. All are directly under the flightpath and all will be severely affected by any increase in noise levels.

I run a business and am reliant on the economy of Thanet. I am very much in favour of developing and exploiting Thanet's assets for the benefit of residents.

What is good for them is good for me and good for my workforce, who all live locally.

But I cannot support an expansion plan that puts its own aims before the interests of residents.

We ought not to be saying, 'Look at Manston – we can build a regional hub there'; rather, 'What sensitive developement can be made at Manston to benefit the local economy?'

Our primary aim ought not to be to solve the problems of a lack of airport capacity in the South East. It should to be to use Manston to help increase the wealth of Thanet. It is from that perspective developement will happen sympathetically, for the good of Thanet. I'm sorry if that doesn't help the economy of the South East as much but, to be frank, the rest of the South East already has a lot more than Thanet.

I invite you to come to the East Cliff, in Ramsgate, where we can talk more about this crucial decision for the future of a town that offers so much but is under the gravest threat. Our residents' association, I am sure, would like to hear your views on the subject. It meets in what was the Princess Victoria's holiday home and later became the town hall, overlooking the harbour and Pegwell Bay – right under the flightpath.

The expansion plan has been conceived without the slightest regard to residents' best interests and your viewpoint might add an interesting juxtaposition to the debate, not to mention balance. I look forward to hearing your views.

Eddie Gadd, Ramsgate

Evil had to be beaten

There's no need for Cllr Tony Harwood of Maidstone council to imagine waves of invaders from continental Europe sweeping across Britain in the 1940s (Letters, January 18).

Something worse actually happened in World War Two (I'm not afraid of offending people by mentioning the war by name, Mr Harwood). In their campaign to grab land and conduct ethnic cleansing on the Eastern Front, German invaders swept across the country today known as Belarus, ruthlessly razing more than 600 villages, butchering thousands of helpless inhabitants with flame-throwers, tanks and dive-bombers.

And to remind those who conveniently forget, Germany was also firing V1 and V2 rockets into England on a daily basis, just as has been happening to Israel for years, killing many innocent people, including women and children.

More than 60 years later, Britain is still bitterly criticised and accused of atrocities because it retaliated by bombing German towns and cities, trying to stop a menace that was threatening our very existence.

Had Britain not taken such drastic and tragic steps, it would have suffered the same fate many here and elsewhere want to see happen to Israel. We would have been wiped off the map and the survivors would have become German-speaking slave labourers.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

Will they never learn?

Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, the Orwellian-sounding 'Children's Minister', has ordered a review of the rules covering home-educated children in England which is being conducted by Graham Badman, former director of children's services with Kent County Council.

She claimed, without a thimbleful of evidence, that some of the children may be subject to abuse or coercion, as if students are any safer from bullying, knifings, shootings, sexual assaults, etc, at private or local authority schools.

I have been, other than a father of eight children, a youth leader, a children's writer, editor of an NSPCC children's magazine, an education correspondent and an elected governor of two Medway primary schools.

I have, cumulatively, some 81 years of direct experience of state/private education and 30 years of home education. There is no doubt in my mind that home education is, like mother's milk, the most tailor-made, cost-effective and caring, safe and nurturing education system any child can receive.

My experience of most Kent schools, grammars and public schools excepted, is that they are, even at best, failing to deliver anything like the highest standard of education possible that every child deserves.

I once wrote in my monthly newspaper column that children at Kent county schools were unlikely to receive more than 19 minutes of quality education a day. This caused a storm of protest. A county LEA school inspector later buttonholed me and said my figure was grossly exaggerated: it was more like 11 minutes a day.

I quit the Labour party years ago because of its redundant attachment to the class war and its chronic and systemic inability to stop sticking its nose into other people's personal business. It has, since 1964, made a

Letters continued on page 67

Kent Highway Services

For information and advice on travelling in Kent, go to page **16**.

For all our Traffic Regulation Orders, please go to page **76**.

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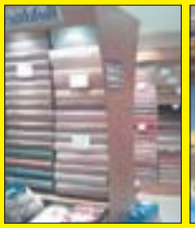

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Welcome to KOS Media's guide to beating the crunch

So 2008 was the year when the UK faced up to a financial reality check.

Soaring house prices led to massive mortgages which many people couldn't really afford.

With many banks and building societies actively encouraging people to borrow even more, the bubble was bound to burst – and it did, big time.

That would have been bad enough on its own, but the debt dominoes and the house of credit cards fell just as we were entering an economic downturn which was part of the global commercial cycle of ups and downs.

On its own, the downturn would have probably not been too bad (we'll never really know, of course), but with the borrowing binge hangover what would have been a bad cold in the City turned into a vicious bout of financial 'flu which affected just about everyone.

But 2009 is another year, another new start.

So let's all try and fight back against the credit squeeze, and make some resolutions about CCCs – climate change changes.

Here KOS Media writers have gathered some topical tips and advice about how to cope.

We have looked at everything from making a household budget to ideas for cheap holidays, and advice for businesses from experts to how to make your motoring money go that little bit further.

And we have also prepared a series of videos giving practical advice on how to save cash, so join our presenter Julie Maddocks at yourkenttv.co.uk.

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But please take note to read the terms and conditions on each voucher carefully – not all the offers last forever and have to be used by a certain date.

We wouldn't want you to be disappointed by missing out on any bargains you want.

To get a taste of some of the deals available online, see the lists of offers included on the pages of your special Beat The Crunch supplement.

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Essential guide to where you can save

- Signature Miramar, the retirement and residential home in Beltinge, Herne Bay, is offering 14 nights' stay for the price of 13
- Colour Choice Conservatories in Margate is offering free colour on conservatory orders
- Living Out Log Cabins in Chestfield and Maidstone is offering 15 per cent off plus free delivery on all DIY log cabins
- County Garage in Herne Bay is offering 15 per cent off Ford accessories. Includes car mats, mudflaps, boot protectors, scuff plates, alloy wheels, roof bars, chrome tailpipe finisher, dog guards, roof boxes, parking sensors
- Home Plus in Ashford and Chatham is offering £200 off when you spend over £1,000
- FG Barnes in Maidstone is offering free six- month road fund licence with all used cars
- Orchard Spot in Maidstone is offering one free pudding with a main course purchased from the Sunday carvery
- Dartford Portable buildings in Dartford is offering up to 10 per cent off timber buildings. Finance available on Crompton garages
- KOS is offering Alex classic light – one of the world's best reading lights, £84.99 save £30
- Kentish Hardwood flooring in Rainham is offering 15 per cent off Karndean products
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- KOS is offering a big button digital cordless phone for just £24.99 – save £20
- Medway Stoves in Medway is offering a free companion set with with any multi-fuel stove purchased
- Positive impact golf in Manston is offering £10 off any lessons
- County Garage in Herne Bay is offering a free winter health check and free 29-point including wash and vacuum
- Aylesford Self Storage in Aylesford is offering three months' free storage for a year for all new document storage clients
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Don't buy into store tactics

Read this and you really will save cash at the supermarket

By **JEFFREY STRAIN**

BY far the best way to truly keep your supermarket shopping expenses under control is by understanding how supermarkets entice you to spend more than you really want.

Here are some ways that supermarkets manipulate you into spending more than you had planned and some simple steps you can take to save money.

Supermarkets intentionally smell of freshly-baked goods. That makes you hungry. Hungry shoppers spend more cash. Fact.

So, only go shopping after you have had a meal and are full. If timing doesn't allow for you to do this, at least drink a couple of glasses of water before leaving to make you feel full before shopping.

Did you ever notice that when you only need to buy a few vital items, they are spread out across the supermarket? Putting basic staple items in the same general area would make happier customers, but supermarkets know that the longer you are there, the more money you are likely to spend. Stores are deliberately designed this way.

Although there is no way around going to the far corners of the store to get the groceries you need avoid impulse purchases.

Make a list of the items you need and stick to it. Get into the habit of making a single trip once a week – thus reducing your time in the store and the risk of impulse buys.

Manufacturers of brand-named products pay hefty fees to stores to have their merchandise placed on the shelves at adult eye level (and child eye level in the case of products aimed at children such as cereal).

That means products placed at eye level are usually the most expensive so take a few seconds to look at the upper and lower shelves. Similar products are placed together and simply looking will often reveal the same product at a much better price.

Take the time to check the other brands and see if there is a better deal.

And always remember that if you weren't planning to buy the item and you don't really need it, then it really isn't a bargain for you, no matter what the price.

The checkout aisle of a store is like a mini mart in itself. This is because supermarkets know that they have a captive audience while you wait in line to pay for your groceries.

The best way to avoid these temptations is to plan your shopping during off-peak hours.

By taking the time to understand how the supermarkets try to influence your shopping and spending habits, you have now put yourself in control. Utilise the suggestions about how to counter the supermarkets' selling techniques and you will be able to control your grocery spending to a much greater extent and should have a much easier time keeping to your monthly food budget.

• ***Jeffrey Strain is a journalist who always plans to save you money. See more at www.savingadvice.com.***

Top tips to save while supermarket shopping

• In addition to using coupons, try to buy only the "loss leader" specials (those big sales advertised in the newspaper ad). Buy lots of these items and freeze or store for the future.

• Did you know that you can freeze milk? Use frozen milk within three months. Remember to pour a little of the milk out (into another jug) before you freeze it, so that it doesn't expand and burst the plastic jug. It will look yellow when frozen, but will thaw out and look normal. It saves on trips to the supermarket.

• Plan ahead on your meals. For instance, Mondays: chicken, Tuesdays: minced beef, etc. Add rice, vegetables, pasta or potatoes for the side dishes. When you break it down you have for example chicken, four times a month so there is no boredom.

• For those money-saving big shops, keep two or three laundry baskets in the back of the car. Cheaper than buying another 'bag for life' and saves plastic bags.

• Buy meat when it's in the 'reduced" section when the 'sell-by" date is that day or one day away. Freeze when you get home.

• If you want to make saving cash fun and you like to cook, scan through my favourite cookbooks and plan out an entire month's menu in advance. One mum who does this said: "I make an inventory of the food I do have and then make a list of what I need to go on one big grocery shopping excursion

"This minimizes the amount of trips I need to make in a month, thus saving me on my grocery budget. I only need to go every other week for milk, fruit and deli meat."

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Don't let the credit crunch bite you

STRESSED OUT: Don't let financial worries make you ill, take measures to stay relaxed

By **GABRIELLE FAGAN**

INCREASING bills, shrinking credit and gloomy forecasts that financially life can only get worse are fast becoming the ingredients of a toxic cocktail that threatens the nation's health.

Headaches, nausea, sleeplessness and exhaustion are thought to be just a few of the symptoms of today's most topical medical condition, Credit Crunch Stress.

Already there are reports of increased levels of depression and tension headaches, not to mention health problems associated with economising, like skipping meals, cancelling gym memberships and drowning sorrows with alcohol.

Recently, 39-year-old postman Duncan Wilby from Yorkshire became one of the early fatalities of the current economic crisis. It was reported that, apparently troubled by financial problems, he took his own life.

Dr Nick Read, a physician and psychotherapist who specialises in stress-related conditions is just one expert predicting the medical profession may soon see a surge in illness caused by money worries.

He says: "The current situation with growing financial uncertainty and anxiety about the future is bound to impact on people's health. Many will feel overwhelmed and worried that they can't cope.

"So doctors may well see more and more people exhibiting symptoms which are triggered by stress such as back pain, breathlessness, muscular tensions, and gut complaints.

"Stress also exacerbates existing illnesses like eczema, asthma, arthritis and migraines."

He estimates that currently around 50 per cent of patients visiting doctors have illnesses which cannot be diagnosed or properly treated but whose origin is stress.

Stress hormones have a range of damaging effects on the body. Adrenalin increases inflammation, makes pain worse and ties the guts in knots. Cortisol raises blood sugar and blood pressure, makes infections worse and induces obesity and exhaustion.

Sleep deprivation caused by money worries is already, according to research, affecting those in particularly vulnerable professions – estate agents, lorry drivers and taxi drivers.

They are enjoying less sleep – only at best six hours a night – than those in other professions and trades, found a survey by Travelodge.

Its findings are backed by new research by sleep aid, Sominex, which discovered that a third of those it surveyed had disturbed nights because of money worries and a further third toss and turn over job worries.

Dr Wendy Denning, director of an integrated health centre in London points out: "Although our physical welfare has a massive impact on how we feel and behave, ironically it's often neglected in times of stress.

"Even simple things can help. For instance when we're stressed we breathe less efficiently and take more shallow breaths, which doesn't get enough oxygen to our brain and body. Deep breathing exercises could improve that."

Soothing sleep

Dr Denning's advice is, don't work until you're literally too tired to do any more as you'll be too exhausted to switch off sufficiently to rest, and avoid watching television late at night as it stimulates the brain.

Sex and the City

Scottish scientists reportedly found that sex isn't just an effective stress reliever for a short time – but that the benefits of one session helped to keep stress at bay for up to a week.

Unfortunately anxiety and stress is known to reduce libido. Dr Denning says: 'Relaxation techniques can help, but talk about any problems with your partner or seek advice from a specialist."

Don't panic

Panic attacks may be a symptom of stress and anxiety. These can last for a brief period of around 15 minutes and feature a range of symptoms including dizziness, nausea, sweating and a racing heart.

Among the treatments which can be recommended by a GP is Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), which involves weekly sessions where the sufferer talks to a therapist. There are also self-help tips, including breathing techniques.

Beat the blues

Low mood as well as feeling more irritable, forgetful, and finding it harder to concentrate can all be symptoms of stress, says Dr Denning.

She recommends a multi-vitamin and mineral supplement to boost the body as stress may deplete levels of key vitamins like B and C, and magnesium and zinc.

Face reality

Fear of what may happen in the future is a major factor in raising stress levels, according to Richard Hilliard, director of the Relaxation for Living Institute.

He said: "Make a plan. Bridge the gap between where you are now and where you want to be by creating actions that move you towards your goal. Feel good about yourself when you achieve even small steps and try to appreciate the positive things in your life."

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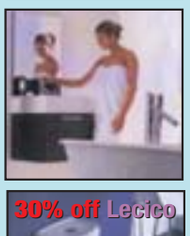

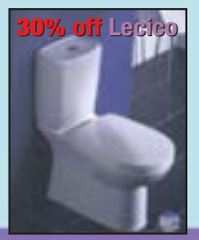

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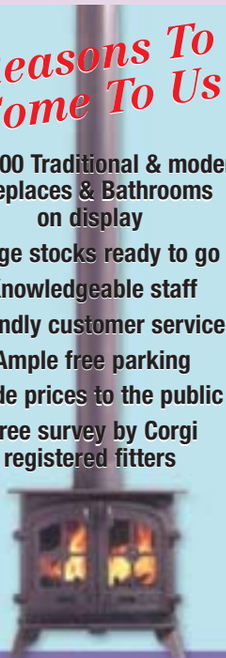

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To see this clip, search 'recycling' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

We look at how you can both make and save money by recycling in this KOS Media credit crunch special film

Essential guide to where you can save

- Farleys Furniture store in Ramsgate is offering 10 per cent off all lift and rise chairs and motion beds
- Kingfisher Blinds in Ashford is offering motorised blinds for just £149 inc VAT
- Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Ramsgate is offering rooms at £49.95 per night including bed and breakfast and free parking
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Stop burning your money

Changing energy suppliers is a lot easier than you think

HOT TIP: Find the cheapest energy prices online using a comparison website

By **CHRIS BRITCHER**

CHANGING energy suppliers has received a lot of bad press over the years.

Tales of unscrupulous door-to-door salesmen signing you up without your knowledge and the myths which surround the actual process have made many steer clear.

Yet the reality is, the process should be quick, simple and save you potentially hundreds of pounds during the course of the year.

Firstly, let's dispel the biggest myth of them all. Changing supplier will involve no new pipes, and no hassle.

From your point of view the only difference will be a different company's name appearing at the top of your monthly bill – and less money leaving your bank account.

All you have to do is identify who you want to supply you with energy and notify them and settle up with your current supplier. There will be no break in your supply and all existing equipment will remain the same.

But crucially, do your research – and don't be hassled by a salesman either on the phone or your doorstep if you don't feel comfortable. Remember, it's your business they want and you're in control of who you give it to. If you're not sure, or are getting confused, simply tell them you'll think about it and thank them for their time. Sign nothing unless you are certain you want to change supplier.

Special offers

Fortunately, with the internet it has never been easier to compare the price of gas and electricity, find out the reputation of companies and hear of problems other customers have had.

Suppliers frequently have online special offers too – cutting prices further simply by switching to an account you monitor via the web.

Independent comparison websites such as uSwitch.com and Moneysupermarket.com are particularly useful. At the click of a mouse they can guide you to the best prices so you can make your own decision.

Scott Byrom, is utilities manager at Moneysupermarket.com. He explained: "Energy bills are well over the £1,000 mark and while the energy giants may cut prices in the coming weeks, changing to a cheaper tariff is something I highly recommend.

"With so many people needing to tighten their purse strings, a saving of almost £1,801 on average could make all the difference. Changing to an online tariff also gives consumers the opportunity to keep track of their payments and have a clearer idea of their balance by managing their account online. As well as swapping from standard to online, changing payment method to monthly direct debit will also guarantee savings."

But you may not even need to change suppliers to achieve noticeable and useful savings. Speak to your current supplier and discuss with them your usage. It is possible simply switching to a different tariff could save you pounds.

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NASONS

For some it's only a small downturn

SMEs can be adaptable in rapidly changing markets

By **TONY PATEY**

SMALL is beautiful was a big catchphrase a few decades ago, but it's certainly come into its own since our economy has taken a downturn.

What are referred to as SMEs (small and medium sized enterprises) often have the agility to react more swiftly to rapidly-changing market conditions than large corporations – rather like how tiny mammals survived when lumbering dinosaurs perished millions of years ago.

In a downturn markets shrink and anyone forking out cash wants value for money. So firms have to work smarter, not just faster. Creative bosses will be asking staff for ideas which could work for the whole team's benefit.

Also, many outfits think that shedding staff can be a good way of cutting costs – it can be, but it's first got to be thought out very carefully.

'Last in, first out' doesn't work any more when you're considering making redundancies because that could land you with an expensive claim for discrimination.

Simon Morgan of Dartford-based HR Dept warns that redundancy is never an easy option, and it needs to be handled properly if it is going to make a positive, rather than negative, impact on your business.

"Many SMEs use redundancy as a way of dealing with a poor performer but this is the surest way to make the dismissal unfair.

"How you choose who to lose when there is more than one person doing the same role has to be decided by an objective selection criteria and consulting with all staff affected at every stage of the proceedings.

"In addition to completing the redundancy process on the right side of the law, you need to think about the rest of your workforce.

"Being left with a smaller team who may be anxious about their own job security or, even worse, who harbour ill-feeling towards senior management, may negate the positive effects you were hoping for with a smaller, more tightly knit team."

When it comes to finance there's little real helpful advice to give. It depends on each individual firm now, because the banks have drawn in their horns and treat any loan or overdraft request with a beady eye.

But, every bank has stressed to me that firms which have been good customers in the past and come up with good business plans or ideas will get a fair hearing – and stories I've done recently in the Business section of Saturday Observer and Kent on Sunday have backed up this claim.

Now's a good time for firms to check out leases and rentals on properties – to see if it's possible to negotiate any new terms.

It's a buyers' market in commercial property at the moment, so companies seeking new premises should be able to work out some very favourable deals.

Essential guide to where you can save

- GG Racing in Ashford is offering £10 off a 1/400th share
- Cox & Son furniture and soft furnishings store in Ramsgate is offering free checks, measures and hangs on curtains
- Avalone Flooring Ltd in Strood is offering 10 per cent off decorative flooring
- County Bed Company in Strood and Tonbridge is offering 10 per cent off any headboard when purchased with a bed.
- Robins and Day Motors in Maidstone is offering free winter health checks (normal RRP £19.99)
- Something Old Something New in Westgate-on-Sea is offering 10 per cent off when you spend over £100
- Winter Gardens Theatre in Margate is offering discount theatre tickets
- St Lawrence Tavern pub and restaurant in Ramsgate is offering buy one main course and get one free
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering £2 off the full ticket price for Burns night/Pink tribute night or ultimate Swing Night
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Going bargain hunting has never been easier – just click and save

By **TOM BETTS**

AS OUR bank balances are squeezed by the credit crunch, some financial experts suggest turning to the internet to make the pennies stretch further.

The savings that can be found online could make the read-out on the ATM screen that little bit more bearable… if you are computer-savvy enough to hunt them down.

While the large supermarket chains find more and more ways to reduce the retail price of their stock, web stores have also had to offer great deals to keep customers spending.

The obvious places to start are the price comparison sites, of which there are many.

The cheapest possible charges on everything from car insurance to Nintendo Wiis can be found on sites such as moneysupermarket.com and kelkoo.co.uk.

The process can be time-consuming, but is worthwhile as huge savings can be made.

Talking to people around the county, the message was clear.

Matthew Bates, 33, from Whitstable said: "I brought a new iPod 8BG Nano with my Christmas money on the net, and used Kelkoo to find it.

"What would have cost me more than £100 on the high street cost £84 on the net."

So much for luxuries, but with winter doing its worst, the cost of your energy bills is worth looking at.

SCREEN SAVER: Online shopping can really help you save your hard-earned money

Click on energyhelpline.com or uswitch.com to set about making pound-saving changes.

Lorraine Pattola, 27, from Westgate-on-Sea, found that by switching energy supplier via the web, she saved more than £50 on her last bill.

She said: "I thought our bills from EDF were outrageous, so I used the web to shop around for a new supplier. My housemates appreciated it, too. I haven't made a cup of tea in weeks!"

And with the cost of mobile phones burning a hole in people's pockets, communicating with your friends can also be made cheaper.

Samuel Clarke from Herne Bay is 28 and has just bought his first home in the town.

Accordingly, he has had to curtail his spending dramatically.

Despite having a love of gadgets and technology, he switched to a pay-as-you-go mobile and increasingly used the internet to make contact with friends.

He said: "I use email much more now and I even joined Facebook, which I once vowed I'd never do. It has saved me money on things like texting and my phone bill has come down by around £15 a month."

Saving money on your groceries by shopping online is also easier than it looks.

The running total counters keep track of what you are spending and help to curtail impulse buys.

The dreaded delivery charge has come down, too, with retailers like Tesco now charging just £1.75 for midweek drops – and you don't spend money on petrol driving to the store.

If you're prepared to swallow your pride and buy second-hand, eBay also comes into its own as a cash-saving resource.

Books, CDs and DVDs, and pretty much everything else, are a steal if you are prepared to play the waiting game until the goods arrive.

One trick is to buy cheap films from shops like WH Smith, which often sell for as little as £3, and sell them on at roughly the same price.

A film for free, unlike renting from a store!

Essential guide to where you can save

- Theatre Royal in Margate is offering two tickets for £20 (normally £14 each) for The Jives Aces on March 20 at 7.30pm,
- Southern Antennae aerial and satellite shop in Broadstairs is offering 20 per cent off any service it provides
- Thanet Leisure Force in Margate and Ramsgate is offering £50 off a family membership package. Discount available against annual payment or can be used for DD memberships against joining fee and daily rate payable in advance
- Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate and Herne Bay is offering 10 per cent off when you spend over £250
- Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off all dining suite orders over £2000
- GC Stevens & Son, garden machinery and woodstoves store in Sittingbourne is offering 10 per cent off stoves and complete flue systems
- Lenleys in Canterbury is offering an extra five per cent off sale prices on furniture, sofas and beds
- H & H Flooring in Deal is offering free underlay upgrade on all carpets
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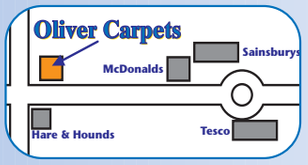

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Are you in control of your staffing costs?

PEOPLE PERSON: Director Tara Lloyd

By **TOM BETTS**

SMALL businesses struggling to maintain their cash flow in the economic downturn should make sure they properly manage all of their people costs.

Ashford-based people management expert Calibre HR & Training said there are often opportunities for improving staffing efficiencies, but too few small businesses have the necessary understanding of the whole staffing picture – and so aren't well placed to secure cost savings.

Director Tara Lloyd said: "The wages bill is one of the largest financial commitments for any business. When times are tough businesses of all sizes need to know where and when costs will be incurred.

"However, small businesses routinely overlook some people costs and fail to have a proper grip on the full cost implications of their decisions. And the consequences can be catastrophic."

Businesses need to know both their total committed staff costs – including overlooked items such as cover for holidays and other absences, bonuses and deferred pay rises – as well as what flexibility they have to revamp operations to match demand.

Said Ms Lloyd: "For ultimate flexibility, employers need to understand the employment status of every staff member and the terms of engagement of contractors and agency staff."

In addition, Ms Lloyd says people costs are often underestimated at both ends of the employment relationship.

"It can be easy to assume recruitment costs will be nil during a recession, but people continue to move jobs and if you are aiming to counter the effects of the downturn you should be taking advantage of the new talent on the market.

"So look closely at your recruitment methods to ensure the best value for money. Similarly, businesses planning to reduce or restructure the workforce need a proper understanding of redundancy costs and the role of professional support in managing the process professionally and avoiding litigation."

HR financial planning – what to include:

- All wage costs
- Cover for holidays and other absences
- Benefits – cars, food subsidies, life assurance, pensions, health cover, staff discounts and private health insurance, etc
- Pay rises and bonuses (including deferred)
- Recruitment costs
- Training
- Unreclaimed Statutory Sick Pay
- Redundancy payments
- Professional HR support

Free people management factsheets are available at www.calibrehr.com.

Essential guide to where you can save

- Farleys furniture store in Ramsgate is offering a free dishwasher with every kitchen order placed over £7,000
- Kingfisher Blinds in Ashford is offering one motorised blind either vertical or roller free when you spend over £1,500
- H & H Flooring in Deal is offering free accessories with all laminate flooring
- Spand Motors in Hythe is offering a free mini valet with any full service
- Theatre Royal in Margate is offering The Barber of Saville Row, January 30, two tickets for one top price ticket (£15 each)
- The Captain Digby pub and restaurant in Broadstairs is offering a free kid's meal from the pirates menu with every adult meal ordered from the restaurant menu
- Southern Antennae in Broadstairs is offering £25 off a high gain digital aerial
- Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering 20 per cent off in the Verve Grill or Victory Pub
- Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £100 off elevating TV cabinets
- Acorns health and fitness in Chatham is offering a third off gym membership
- KOS is offering a Pulsar Kinetic Watch only £49.99 (inc p&p) no battery required, saving over 50 per cent on RRP
- Morris & Turner in Medway is offering an extra £10 off Taurus vanity units and basins

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Take a holiday from the credit crunch

By **TONY PATEY**

COST will probably play the biggest part in holiday planning for most people this year – and New Year offers in the travel shops will be scanned carefully.

Looking at what has happened in the rest of the retail sector over the last couple of months, I think we can take major discounts as a given.

But it'll be worth checking out if they really are bargains or just face-value savings covering lots of extra charges. Or dodgy accommodation. Or travelling in the middle of the night from Rocky Horror Airport.

Deals

Of course, people will be using the internet if they can access it. But think about your nearest travel agents' – they employ locals who are trying to make ends meet like the rest of us, and when the good times come back you'll be glad they're still around.

If the assistants have been through the courses for travel agents, and I'm sure most have if they're on the front desks, they'll be able to work out the very best deals and travel routes.

With the weak pound, going foreign may not be the best idea this year; there are, after all, plenty of good holiday spots in the UK and southern Ireland, and there are bound to be opportunities for negotiating a cost-effective deal.

Even if a hotel or guest houses is not advertising a discount or offer, such as for a family, it's worth asking – they'll probably come up with a decent deal.

When my family was young I took them to the really beautiful parts of Britain – for example, Exmoor, the Peak District, the Isle of Mull, Wales – because I wanted them to know what was on their doorstep before they jetted off abroad when older.

PEAK TIMES: Saving money on holidays is an excuse to re-discover what's on our doorstep

In fact, even now my wife and I would much prefer a walking holiday from a small, family-run hotel or guest house in say, Rutland, than spend a couple of days tearing out our hair at an airport – which wipes out any benefit from a holiday overseas, anyway.

Rail and coach services are definitely worth looking at – apart from saving carbon-miles you can put up your feet with a book, newspaper or just snooze, and teenagers – and the not so young – aren't as selfish as they used to be with noisy headphones.

If you're really aiming to cut costs, or just want to rough it, camping can be either extremely comfortable or just extreme; caravans are also a good option because you can move around, but you have to pick sites carefully to get facilities you want.

B&Bs have really come on, and not just because of the fire, health and safety rules and regulations they have to satisfy.

A lot are now run by people who have taken early retirement from good jobs, or have got a good redundancy payout, and they give the kind of service they'd expect if they were on a break. And breakfast is usually extremely good.

Self-catering has never been on my holiday agenda, but other members of my family say it's fine if there are just one, two or three – it can be a bit time-consuming if there're more.

If you're young, check out any bus service deals you can get, such as special passes, because if you can get A to B on public transport, cheap or free, it's worth it. Also, if you're 60 or over, don't forget to apply for bus and rail passes.

If you're really worried about expense, why not just stay at home?

What's wrong with watching videos you like, listening to music, catching up on reading and then going out for a good evening meal and drink (you're not splashing out for anything else, let's face it)?

And Kent, of course, can offer fantastic landscapes and days out for all the family.

Use the car only if you have to, and check out public transport links – all right, you can't get everywhere, but you'll be surprised where you can go, and timings are now very good.

Reducing your carbon footprint and your bills

WE can all make changes at work and at home which will help reduce our carbon footprints – and save us money during the credit crunch.

There's lots that can be done, and a main focus is climate change, which is highlighted in a new report from the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, which is the only organisation seeking to protect the countryside as a whole.

It's called 'Tomorrow's Kent', and is available on CPRE Kent's website, and shows how climate change will affect our county and what steps we can take.

Loans

A rapidly growing number of homeowners are now taking advantage of local council loans and government grants to install solar panels, wind turbines and other microgeneration technologies in their homes.

You may initially feel a large-scale renovation project in your home may seem uneconomical, but renewable energy technologies such as wood burners that provide heating and hot water, or solar water heating panels, will pay for themselves in the long term.

While oil prices may have come down for the moment, everything suggests that high heating costs are here to stay, unless we look for alternatives.

BY **GEMMA WATTS**

There are many other practical steps you can take to reduce the amount of energy you use in your home. By simply replacing old lightbulbs with energy saving ones you can reduce your energy costs.

If your boiler is more than 10 years old then think seriously about getting a new, more efficient one. It should keep you warmer for a lot less money.

Improving the insulation of your home doesn't have the 'eco-bling' attraction of a solar panel or a wind turbine, but it can save you money, and reduce your carbon footprint, far more effectively.

For impartial advice on what is available in your area and what you can do, contact the Energy Savings Trust (www.energysavingtrust.org.uk or phone 0800 512 012).

CPRE Kent is holding an 'Alternative Energy Event' in Tunbridge Wells on January 24. There will be a range of speakers giving presentations on how alternative energy can work with protecting the countryside, listed buildings and conservation areas.

For more information visit the website www.cprekent.org.uk or call 01303 815180.

Take action now to protect Kent from climate change and start saving on your bills.

• ***Gemma Watts is publicity officer of the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.***

COST EFFECTIVE: (top to bottom) solar panels; insulation; and energy bulbs

Essential guide to where you can save

■ Lindsay's Driver Training in Hythe is offering a Learner Driver starter pack for only £95 which includes four lessons, theory training DVD Rom, Highway Code, Theory Q&A book, £60 pass plus discount (for under 20s) Young marmalade kit (low car insurance and cars for new drivers)

■ GC Stevens & Son, garden machinery and woodstoves store in Sittingbourne is offering £10 off Honda mower servicing and £20 off Honda and Husqvama ride on mower servicing

■ Clarkes Furnishers in Maidstone is offering a free power upgrade. Pay for a manual recliner and upgrade to a power version free. G Plan upholstery

■ Lexterten furniture store in Westgate-on-Sea is offering £300 off upholstery orders over £1,500

■ The Fireplace in Sittingbourne is offering 10 per cent off

■ Village Hotel in Maidstone is offering 50 per cent off its Sunday night pasta buffet

■ Thanet Leisure Force in Margate and Ramsgate is offering £100 off joining fee. At any Thanet leisure force fitness studio when you sign up to any membership package

■ Farleys furniture store in Ramsgate is offering half price duvets and pillows with every bed purchased

■ KOS is offering a porous seepage hose. It saves time and money uses up to 70 per cent less water. From only £19.99, save £35 on RRP

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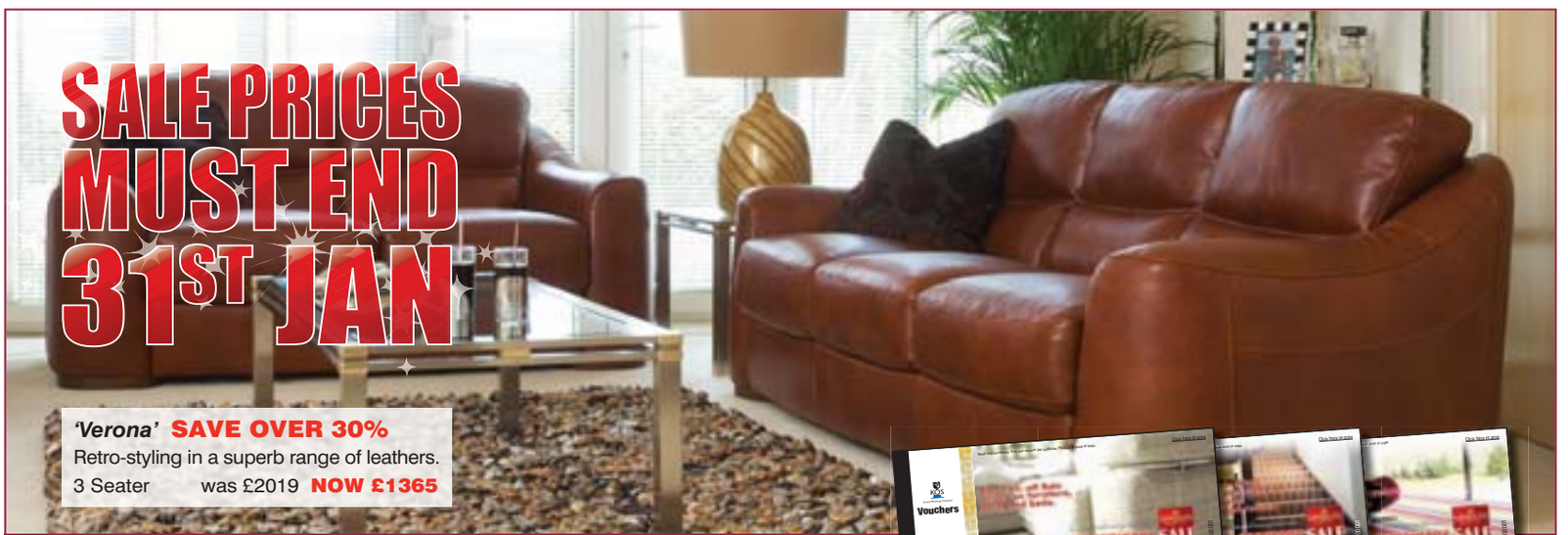

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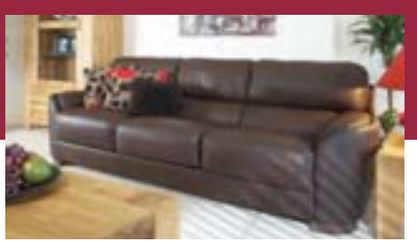

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Healthy ways to save allot of cash

VEGGIE FEAST: Growing your own food and shopping sensibly can help your finances

IT USED to be dig for victory, but now we could say it's dig for survival…

Growing your own vegetables and generally shopping sensibly can save a lot of money. So rather than just cruising supermarket aisles picking up whatever takes your fancy, and getting a shock at the check-out, plan your campaign.

Part of that attack could be just growing your own herbs and some vegetables – or even getting an allotment for a bigger crop – and also making sure you spot the food and drink bargains in a variety of stores, from the biggies to cornershops.

For example, try and buy large bags of onions or potatoes rather than smaller amounts; you'll find that if they're kept in a cool, dry, shaded place they'll last ages.

Also, cultivate your local butcher. If you're a regular customer, you could, for example, ask for a 'bargain pack' of meat if you give them say £30 or £40 cash. Again, it'll save in the long run and last ages – and it'll stock up your freezer.

Plan meals

Plan meals a week ahead, and shop just for the items you need – that way, no food will go to waste and you'll be less tempted by unnecessary bits.

At the supermarket go for the 'own brands' – which are often just a difference in packaging, and a lot cheaper.

Budget supermarkets such as Lidl also do an incredible range of fruit juices, including pear and peach, which are extremely healthy, cheap and long dated. They're usually packed with vitamin C and very tasty.

Taking sandwiches and some fruit for lunch at work will save pounds each week, and you won't be tempted by fast food or cream cakes. Drink water instead of expensive and calorie-packed fizzies.

Use up leftovers – for example, vegetables can be used as a 'bubble and squeak' the next day, and meat can be used for sandwiches.

And if you make things like lasagne, stew and shepherd's pie, make much more than you need so you can then freeze small portions for the future.

Finally, try and grow your own vegetables. Not only will it keep you fit, but the taste of something you have grown yourself is very satisfying.

If you're new to gardening, get some how-to books from the local library – you'll find loads on the shelves – and the weekly gardening magazines carry masses of topical tips and suggestions.

Cultivating anything from a small patch in your back garden to a full-scale allotment will give you an extremely worthwhile hobby which will certainly stay with you even when the recession becomes a memory

This time of year, you'll find bargains and big discounts in garden centres for a whole range of gardening items, from mowers to gloves.

To see this clip, search 'driving' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

According to one driving instructor, we could all change our driving habits and see a 39 per cent fuel saving

Essential guide to where you can save

- Holiday Inn Express in Ramsgate is offering conference room hire for £95 per day including LCD projector, flipchart, pens and one round of coffee plus free parking
- GG Racing in Ashford is offering £40 off a 1/100th share in racing shares
- Elephant Windows in Ramsgate is offering £100 off with any order placed over £2,000
- A & A Gliderobes in Canterbury is offering up to £100 off
- Kentish Hardwood in Rainham is offering 10 per cent off carpets

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Draught in

We decided to get some help this winter to make our home more eco-friendly while cutting down on high heating costs...

By KATE HODAL

THERE was no joke about it: the house was an icebox, but we'd made a silent but communal resolution to withstand the cold rather than blast the heat.

But when snow fell, we decided we'd had enough. We flipped the switch.

Then the boiler packed up.

The timing couldn't have been worse. Or better. We might have been freezing, but the Energy Saving Trust was also telling people that what we needed to do to stay warm wasn't to turn up the heat, but insulate the loft, strip insulate our windows and stop using our chimneys, energy-inefficient as they were.

So we decided to try out an eco audit. Would it really be possible to save money and stay warm, all at the same time?

That's when eco-auditing guru Donnachadh McCarthy stepped in.

Blessed with a thermometer, an energy monitor (which reads how much energy an appliance uses both when on standby and in use) he wandered with us from room to room measuring things like drafts, light usage, how much time we spent in which areas and insulation.

What he found in our four-storey Victorian mid-terraced house was shocking. For a household that recycles nearly twice as much as the national average, we were eco-sinning just by opening up our front door.

But all that was about to change.

Taking in full stock of the house, from cellar to loft, Donnachadh gave us a full list of notes on how we could cut costs but plump up our eco-friendliness.

Heating

It has charm, but our house is also large, drafty and badly insulated. While we might be slightly ahead of the rest of Britain by subscribing to a green electricity tariff, we've still been using way too much of it.

I discovered that by replacing the boiler with a newer model we could save around 20 per cent on our gas bills and keep the house heated more efficiently.

But the possibility of my landlord buying us a whole new one was low, so Donnachadh talked instead about how we were actually using the boiler.

Our boiler is set on a timer, with separate controls for the central heating and hot water. But we still had the hot water on longer than we needed it – we were able to shave off three hours per day from our heating bill, which would save us roughly 20 per cent per month on our electricity bill.

We also made sure to cap its temperature at 60C, so as not to overheat the water and suffer the economic consequences later.

Radiators

Many of the radiators in the house are placed under windows, for instance in the kitchen, bathroom and some bedrooms, meaning that up to 70 per cent of the heat is lost straight through the glass above or through the outside wall.

"This can be corrected by installing a shelf above the radiator, which will block the heat from escaping up through the window," Donnachadh explained.

"By installing a reflector panel, you'll reflect the heat into the room rather than leak it into the wall behind it."

We've found that it also helps to draw the curtains at night, which none of us had paid much attention to. By turning rooms into small boxes, and ensuring the curtains are drawn, doors closed and radiators turned on, our house has become a hodgepodge of warm rooms, rather than an airy hallway whereby one can wander in and out of spaces that are,

as a result, freezing cold.

Fireplaces

Our next stop was to take a look at the fireplaces. Donnachadh reckons that up to 15 per cent of the central heating in a room can be lost up an unsealed fireplace.

Our house might boast five gorgeous fireplaces, but they certainly make a room cold.

After investing in a chimney balloon, which set me back £19.99, my room became five degrees warmer and there was no longer a draught between the chimney and the door to my room.

Doors

Donnachadh said: "Take a look at your front door," he said ominously, stepping over the threshold.

He pointed out a draughty letterbox, which was letting cold air into our hallway day and night. "Most people don't realise the effect of draught in a door frame like this.

the expert to go green

draught-proof letter box, and your hallway will warm up in no time," he added.

"A doorbrush would help the gap at the bottom of the door, and a door curtain would also stop any drafts from coming into the house."

Donnachadh's next step was to take a look at our kitchen door, with its keyhole allowing a permanent shaft of air coming into the room.

He told us that putting tape over the keyhole on the outside would prevent cold air from coming in.

Things to look out for: door gaps, drafts from cracks, air coming through keyholes, broken locks and draughty letterboxes.

Solutions: draught excluders, taping keyholes, fixing locks and getting draught-resistant letterboxes.

Floors

Our drafty house's wooden floorboards once supported plush carpet. While its since been ripped up, the boards themselves have not changed since the house was built in the 1870s.

Well worn, they are incredibly draughty, with no insulation protecting them from the cold cellar air blowing from below.

"This is a source of a large amount of your heat loss and needs to be dealt with urgently," Donnachadh said, reckoning that a whopping 15 per cent of our home's heat loss was going through the floor.

By filling in the floorboard gaps and nailing wood fibre insulation board to the cellar ceiling, we should be a lot warmer, he says.

Things to look out for: holes.

Solutions: plug the holes with floor filler (available from hardware stores) and insulation board.

Windows

A crack as small as 2mm around a window can let in as much cold air as leaving the window open 8cm, so it's essential to make sure your windows fit well.

The windows in our kitchen and living room had gaps large enough to stick pencils through, and air vents in the toilets were either left open or were broken.

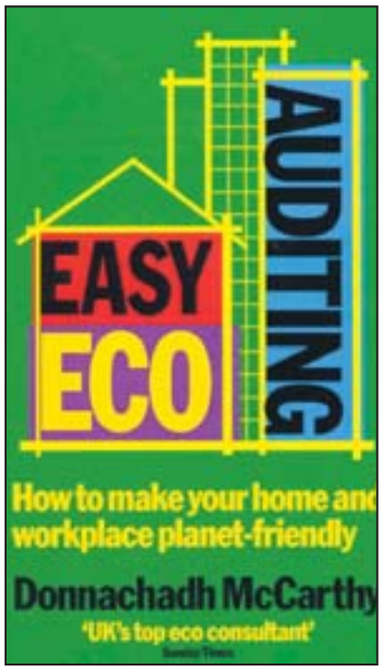
After blocking up the vents with some strip insulation and recycled cardboard, we found the toilet and kitchen now felt 100 times warmer.

Our next step was to look at the sash windows in our house, whose draughts needed blocking with draught excluders along the sides and in between the window frames.

Donnachadh also noted that installing curtains on the kitchen windows would help even more, as would drawing our bedroom curtains (and having them thermally lined, or at least double-lined) with Velcro, to ensure their complete closure at night.

Things to look out for: broken locks, draughts coming in between the panes or between the pane and frame.

Solutions: strip insulation, fixing the locks, heavy curtains.



DRAUGHT EXCLUDER: Expert Donnachadh McCarthy can audit your home to give you the best advice on being green

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Why we're finding the credit crunch a turn on

Most headlines about the credit crunch were depressing and gloomy, until news broke that the recession has made us all have more sex. We ask the experts about the story behind the headlines, whether it will lead to a baby boom and reveal why sex is good for you

By **KATE WHITING**

THE credit crunch has been blamed for a lot of things – repossessions, redundancies and the demise of Woolworths – but in recent weeks it has also hit the headlines for reigniting Britain's sex lives.

Sales of condoms have shot up according to Superdrug.

It seems that more and more couples are opting for a steamy night in rather than splashing their cash on a night on the tiles, and some experts are predicting a baby boom next year as a result.

"We've seen a phenomenal rise in the sales of products designed to enhance sexual pleasures and a rise in the sales of condoms compared to this time last year," says Melanie Wilson, Superdrug's healthcare buyer.

"Over the past four weeks we have also seen sales of pregnancy testing kits rise every week – so we'll expect to see sales of nappies rocket later this year."

A recent survey by YouGov named sex as the nation's favourite free activity ahead of window shopping and gossiping, but as with some other trends, we've seen it all before.

Research shows that economic slumps in the past, including during the 70s and the early 90s, caused the birth rate to rise, so could we be set for another baby boom?

"No," says Netmums co-founder Siobhan Freegard.

"We tend to have mums on our website who are already pregnant and already have children, and from their point of view, I would say the credit crunch is probably having the opposite effect in that we're finding mums who would like to have a child are actually holding off and saying 'I'm really worried about my husband's job' or 'it's another mouth to feed'.

"Also people who had hoped to have another baby and move house, for more room, are not able to do that, so they're actually holding back and saying 'we're going to wait and see how things pan out'."

While sales of condoms are increasing, it could well be that people are more worried about getting pregnant and are taking more care with contraception, rather than that they're actually having more sex.

Regardless of whether there will be a baby boom, it certainly seems the nation's sex life is having a healthy surge. That's no bad thing, says relationship expert Paula Hall.

"I've seen the statistics saying condom sales have increased, so unless they're all being used as water balloons, it seems couples are having more sex," she says.

"Certainly I've seen a number of couples who can't afford to go out and do the things they do normally and they're deciding they need to find cheaper forms of entertainment. Staying at home and enjoying themselves sexually is certainly something I'd recommend to help their relationship."

HOME ENTERTAINMENT: More couples are opting for a steamy night in to save money

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Don't dispute it

BY **TONY PATEY**

WITH lay-offs and cost-saving happening in a lot of companies, many workers feel unsafe and edgy.

This is often the time when disputes which are really tea-cup storms become full-blown disagreements.

This is where Acas comes in. It has been part of the industrial landscape for years – in the past it figured in all the big disputes between unions and bosses.

It used to be called by its full name of Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, but now it's just known by its acronym.

But, although it's involved in all aspects of employment disputes, a key part of its work is mediation – and it's this part which grabbed the headlines years ago when its delegates used to sit down between some tough bargainers on both sides.

Acas has launched a new line of attack, urging employees and employers to resolve any disputes in the workplace rather than going for expensive employment tribunals.

Acas South East senior advisor Sarah Vintner said: "Mediation aims to get people talking together, in a constructive way, so they can sort out their differences.

"Obviously this isn't easy, especially if people haven't been getting on well for some time and have built up very negative pictures of each other.

"That's why the mediation approach we use is quite structured and provides clear ground rules so that people feel as safe as they possibly can.

"That way they are more willing to open up and be honest about what is bothering them."

The mediator first meets each person separately so that there is confidence that the Acas delegate is not there to judge who is right or wrong, and then the process starts.

Ms Vintner said: "A typical scenario for mediation is where two work colleagues have such different personalities and working styles that they each regard the other as rude and unhelpful, sometimes leading to allegations of bullying and harassment.

"A situation which, if left without any attempt to help those two people talk to each other properly, could result in grievances and ultimately disciplinary action as their behaviour begins to breach company standards.

"The typical mediation outcome of such a case is respect and understanding of each other, increased self-awareness and agreements about acceptable and unacceptable behaviours."

PREVENTABLE?: Acas mediation can help with problems in the workplace

FREE book to help your firm

STEP up, folks – here is a FREE book to help firms with their marketing. But you'd better be quick because it's a limited offer.

It's designed to help businesses increase the effectiveness of their marketing, has just been released and is called "Why most marketing doesn't work and how you can fix it….."

Author, business specialist Dean Garland, said: "For most businesses, the quickest way to climb out of the recession and improve their fortunes lies in their ability to use effective marketing tactics.

"Unfortunately, most business owners find that their marketing isn't working as they would like, but have no way of knowing why this is the case."

This comprehensive 99-page book solves this problem and is FREE to KOS Media readers when they enter or mention Kent on Sunday when they go to http://www.marketingfixit.co.uk/ or call 0844 4480 670 – but only 50 copies are available.

The book has been designed to create a quick win for those aiming to generate more money from their business and get an excellent return on their marketing spending with:

- 31 examples of proven marketing campaigns which have generated millions of pounds for small business owners including detailed summaries on why each one worked
- Why your 'message' has to include the '8 marketing assets'
- How to side-step the competition and eliminate them from the minds of your prospects and customers (without reducing your prices).

Mr Garland, of Rapid Results Marketing, said: "By knowing what marketing to use in certain situations and how to put it into action will be a key skill if small business owners are going to keep their ship afloat during the current economic climate.

"Unfortunately, there are millions of business owners throughout the UK who struggle with this element of their business. I think this is typically because they don't have enough time to dedicate to it and they lack the necessary know-how."

The Book also includes 7 Essential 'Marketing Fix-It Lessons'. All you have to do to receive the book for FREE is to enter the reference number 136 or just type Kent on Sunday along with your contact details. After doing so, you'll be able to get instant access to the book straight from the website. If you'd prefer, phone 0844 4480 070 and give your name, address, telephone number and email address and you'll be sent an email giving you immediate access to the book.

This is the year to be shrewd – or you could be paying a heavy price

BY **JEREMY GATES**

IT WAS left to national treasure Robert Peston, the BBC reporter whose strangulated tones guided us through the big financial crises of 2008, to highlight the ironies of a year none would have predicted 12 months ago.

At this stage in the credit crunch, he noted, savers and careful investors who usually come out well in a recession, are carrying the can and showing hefty losses – while many bankers, who caused much of the trouble, got themselves refinanced just in time to collect Christmas bonuses.

Great deals

After a turnaround like that, how can we survive 2009, a year billed in advance as one of the grimmest in years?

Here's a New Year medley of tips:

• Always keep within the authorised overdraft limit on your bank account.

The average authorised interest rate is 14.48 per cent, while the average cost of unauthorised debit interest is over 60 per cent more expensive.

• Beware of too many bargains: "You run the risk of buying things you don't need", says Gill Wrigley of Tenon Recovery, "so keep a check on what you spend and keep to your list."

• Slash those mobile phone bills: James Parker, mobiles and broadband manager at Moneysupermarket.com, says great value SIM-only deals will catch on in 2009.

"Asda and Ikea have already entered the market from the High Street and 2009 should see more big names joining the fray", he says.

"With the market for SIM-only becoming ever more competitive, we should see some great deals for consumers."

• Guard against the sack: Emma Walker, head of protection at Moneysupermarket.com, thinks rising job losses will make payment protection insurance (PPI) for loans and mortgages a "major focus for 2009".

• Homebuyers will be "increasingly happy" to switch to Standard Variable Rate (SVR) mortgages at the end of a fix, says Louise Cuming, head of mortgages at Moneysupermarket.com. However, Cuming fears "a flurry of conditions imposed by lenders to prevent borrowers from benefiting from the SVR rate will continue".

• Take trouble to find top savings rates: Kevin Mountford, head of savings at Moneysupermarket.com, says "a couple of new providers will enter the market – good news for consumers as it will help to keep the new breed of super banks on their toes.

"There will be a gap between best and average accounts, so savers must be vigilant."

• Loans will get dearer: Tim Moss, head of loans at Moneysupermarket.com, says rising defaults on repayments, and banks making less money from PPI will result in higher APRs. He thinks rates could hit 12 per cent, the level of five years ago, after several years in single figures, with only 'prime' customers getting unsecured loans.

• Equity release catches on: Anthony Rafferty at Norwich Union says 2009 will see the start of products sold via major banks and building societies to older homeowners keen to turn bricks and mortar into ready cash.

• Look to save on home and car insurance: Simon Lambie at Confused.com reckons the average saving by the website's customers in 2008 was £186 on home insurance, and £208 on motor cover.

Decent return

• Look to pay down the mortgage with any spare cash: Simon Lambie at Confused.com says a £100,000 borrower on a 25-year repayment loan, with an interest rate of five per cent, saves over £12,200 in interest payments by overpaying by £50 per month. They would also cut the repayment period by three-and-a-half years.

• Don't be afraid to spend: Geoff Tresman, chairman of Punter Southall Financial Management says: "Wherever possible, pay down debt. It could get expensive in 2009.

"If you have the money, I would suggest you spend some of it in 2009 – on electrical equipment, white goods, clothes, available at prices last seen 25 years ago."

• Long-term savers might get a decent return by buying a traded endowment policy, which the original owner is selling well ahead of maturity. Brian Goldstein, chairman of The Association of Policy Market Makers claims latest figures show these policies returning an average 8.3 per cent a year over 25 years, much better than saving accounts and shares in the current climate.

• Serious savers are likely to find corporate bonds – issued by companies to raise funds – will be the most rewarding asset class in 2009, says investment director Rob Pemberton at wealth manager HFM Columbus.

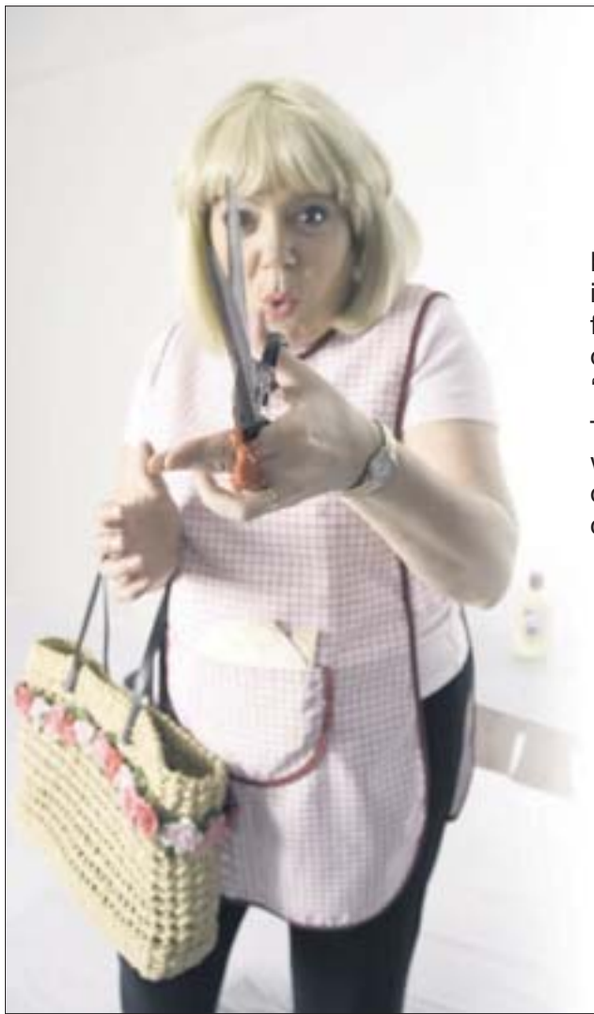
• Flat owners might try to extend their lease, says Philip Rowland, leasehold specialist at Sussex-based law firm Adams & Remers.

Rowland said: "In a market where selling property is difficult, it makes sense for flat owners to protect their investment by using their statutory rights to extend their lease."

• Pay off more than the minimum on credit card debts, says Simon Lambie at Confused.com. "If customers pay only the minimum – ie, two per cent on a £5,000 balance each month, on an interest rate of 15 per cent, it would take 463 months (over 38 years) to repay the original amount, plus interest of £7,652.

"Pay an extra £50 per month, and the payback period falls to 73 months, with interest only £2,009", says Mr Lambie.

No doubt you've noticed a common theme running through these tips: 2009 is the year when you take a keen interest in money and understand exactly where it's going. If not, you could pay a heavy price.



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The gusset determines the way a woman moves and feels. If it is cut the wrong way dramatic changes take place. If you are experiencing mood swings, manic depression, irrational behaviour and want to kill the nearest man to you… check your gusset out!

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Word on the street is...

We visited Canterbury to find out how all of you are dealing with the credit crunch

MARKET stall owner **Steve Humble** said: "It's affected everyone. People are definitely cutting back on non-essentials and things are difficult.

"I've had to cut back on other things too. I used to employ two members of staff, and unfortunately I had to let one go.

"We have also had to cut out visiting markets where we have to drive a long way due to petrol costs, and this year I will be taking a one week holiday instead of two weeks."

CANTERBURY street cleaner **Matthew Cole** said: "I'm getting by, but my family are having to budget much more carefully than we were before; everything from food to gas bills.

"And whereas you used to look forward to holidays and nights out and things like that, now we have to be a lot more careful.

"But it's just a question of budgeting better. I'm lucky because I'm in a fairly secure job that is paid weekly."

LORD mayor's chauffer **Laurence Dunderdale** said: "So far it hasn't affected us that badly. Obviously, like everyone else we are keeping an eye on the bills, things like the utilities and food, but so far we are doing OK.

"I'm semi-retired, but I have two part-time jobs – I'm the Lord Mayor of Canterbury's chauffer and bursar of an alms house charity.

"We're also keeping an eye on our investments, and we've moved a couple to get better rates."

OWNER of Marlowe Florists **John Scanlon** said: "The walk-in sales have dried up completely; the £6 to £10 casual market is dead – those few quid are staying in people's pockets now.

"People are still buying the big bouquets for people's birthdays and things like that, because they have to. If a husband forgets his wife's birthday he's in trouble.

"But if it wasn't for people dying, getting married, or having birthdays I don't know what we'd do.

"I'm selling a quarter of what I'd normally sell from walk-in sales. The business used to be 50-50 between walk in and pre-ordered."

THE Lunatic Fringe manager **Steve Wallace** said: "We are alright, but it's depressing to see other places going under when you're doing OK yourself.

"We have a good number of regular clients who come in every four to six weeks, and Christmas was busy so now in January and the beginning of February we're getting a lot of people in again.

"People always want their hair cut, especially now spring is coming, and people are thinking about a restyle. We are a ray of light.

JUSTIN Weston, owner of the Secret Café, said: "I'm doing OK. Before Christmas I was really feeling the pinch, so I brought in a new credit crunch menu.

"I did away with the restaurant side of it, and pared it back to only selling things on the specials board – a couple of mains and a couple of choices of soup.

"Now I have a regular stream of customers, but they all come in to eat because it's cheaper. It's more of a café than a coffee shop now.

"In times like these every business needs a strategy and mine was to cut the prices on food."

Essential guide to where you can save

- Hazlitt Arts Centre in Maidstone is offering two for one offer on music nights tickets normally £12 each, now two tickets for £12
- H & H Flooring in Deal is offering an extra 10 per cent off all carpets
- Deco 5, wine bar and gallery in Whitstable is offering 20 per cent off food all day Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Light tapas-style menu
- Cox & Son, furniture and soft furnishings-store in Ramsgate is offering interest-free credit on all carpet orders over £1,000
- Angel Nail Studio in Ramsgate is offering first full set of acrylic nails for £22 and first infill's half price
- Avalone Flooring Ltd in Strood is offering 10 per cent off carpets
- Avinco Limited in Ramsgate is offering 15 per cent off aerial installation
- Bourne Road Garage in Crayford is offering free car mats with all Mazda purchases new and used
- Carpets 4 Less in Ashford is offering 10 per cent off carpets, rugs, vinyls, laminate and wood floors
- Clarkes Furnishers in Maidstone is offering bed bargains – buy a 5ft divan set and pay only the sale price of a 4ft 6in
- KOS is offering Snugfit mattress topper from Slumberdown from only £69.99, save up to £40. Various sizes available

To get these offers go to: www.vouchersforkent.co.uk

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Recipe to beat tough times

Staying in is the new going out, but feeding a crowd can end up costing a packet. Fiona Beckett, author of The Frugal Cook, shows how to feed your friends without breaking the bank

BY **LUCY CORRY**

WHEN it's cold and bleak outside, I love having people over for dinner.

They're always grateful to be fed, it's a chance to cook something more exciting than the usual weekday pasta and sauce combo, and it's a good way to return favours or get to know people better.

But unless you're careful, entertaining at home can be a fast-track to economic ruin. Many's the time when a quick bit of accounting has shown that dining in can cost as much as dining out – and you still have to do the dishes and clean up afterwards.

Foodwriter Fiona Beckett has got plenty of ideas on how to be a generous host without resorting to beans on toast for the rest of the month.

Her new book, The Frugal Cook, is packed with recipes and ideas to turn simple ingredients into meals with the wow factor.

She says it is possible to skimp without it showing – you just need to be clever.

"Make up for your lack of cash by inviting friends to a meal that sounds fun," she says.

"You could tie it to an event... or focus on a type of food, like a cupcake tea, a jelly and ice-cream party, or a soup supper."

Here Fiona shares two recipes.

Caramelised Cauliflower Soup

Serves 4-6

1 medium to large cauliflower
75g unsalted butter
1/4 tsp curry powder plus a little extra for decoration

150ml semi-skimmed milk
600ml light vegetable stock
Salt, black pepper and lemon juice to taste

Chop the cauliflower. Cut the butter into cubes, put them in a large saucepan and place on a medium to high heat. Add the cauliflower and cook, stirring occasionally until golden brown (about 12-15 minutes).

Stir in the curry powder and cook for another two to three minutes then add the milk, and bring to the boil, stirring. Reduce the heat, cover the pan and simmer for five minutes.

Add 300ml of the stock, bring to the boil then cook gently until the cauliflower is soft. Remove the pan from the heat, leave to stand for five minutes then tip the contents into a liquidiser and puree until smooth. Return to the pan.

Whizz up the remaining stock in the blender to pick up the last bits of the puree and add to the cauliflower. Stir well and re-heat gently.

Season to taste with lemon juice, salt and black pepper. Serve in small bowls with chives and a light dusting of curry powder.

Empress of Puddings

Serves 4

400ml whole milk
finely grated rind of 1 small unwaxed lemon
15g butter
25g caster sugar
80g fresh breadcrumbs
2 large egg yolks
3tbsp raspberry jam
125g fresh or frozen raspberries or mixed small berries

For the meringue:

2 large egg whites
110g caster sugar

You will need a lightly greased small to medium-sized shallow oven-proof dish about 750ml in capacity.

Pour the milk in a saucepan, add the lemon rind and stir then place over a low heat until the milk is hot. Add the butter and caster sugar and leave a couple of minutes until melted then strain the milk over the breadcrumbs. Stir and leave for 20 minutes.

Meanwhile heat the oven to 160C/325F/Gas 3. Beat the soaked breadcrumbs, then beat in the egg yolks and tip the mixture into the greased pie dish. Place the dish in a roasting tin of water and bake for about 45 minutes until the top is lightly set.

Put the jam in a small saucepan with the frozen fruit, warm through and spread gently over the pudding without breaking the surface.

Whip the egg whites until stiff then whisk in half the sugar until the mixture is thick. Fold in the remaining sugar and spread over pudding.

Put the pudding back in the oven, turn the heat down to 150C/300F/Gas 2, and cook for15-20 minutes until the meringue is golden brown.

To see this clip, search 'food'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

We look at how much cheaper, healthier and popular it is becoming to grow our own food and cook at home.

Essential guide to where you can save

- St Georges Chevrolet in Margate is offering free three years servicing extended AA roadside membership
- Holiday Inn Express in Ramsgate is offering a room, bed and breakfast and entertainment package for £55 which includes movies, music and internet plus free parking
- GG Racing in Ashford is offering free memorabilia – buy a share in a racehorse and receive a free mouse mat, coaster, key ring and fridge magnet worth over £10
- KOS is offering luxury Egypitian cotton 400-count percale bed linen. Save up to 40 per cent off RRP

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Help available to keep the roof over your head

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

HOMEOWNERS and tenants have been assured that help is always at hand if they are struggling to make their monthly mortgage or rental payments.

According to the public services website Directgov, losing a home can usually be avoided if the person living there fully explores the numerous options available to them first.

For example, owners can often negotiate a new payment plan with their mortgage lender, while they and those renting properties should also find out if they are eligible for any housing benefits.

In both cases Directgov advises people to pay as much as they can manage each month, as regular payments at least demonstrate to lenders and landlords that they are committed to overcoming their problems.

For those homeowners who feel there really is no way out, the Government announced last week that it was rolling its mortgage rescue scheme out across the country.

The £200 million programme – which is being managed by the National Housing Federation (NHF) – allows people to take a loan from or sell their homes to housing associations, who will then lease the property back.

DON'T PANIC: Assistance for homeowners

Residents in Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone, Dartford, Tonbridge and Malling and Shepway were among the first to benefit when the scheme was piloted in December.

NHF chief executive David Orr said: "The mortgage rescue scheme will save thousands of vulnerable families from the nightmare of having their homes repossessed and give them the long-term stability they need.

"This scheme will also serve to undermine those shadowy companies currently making money out of people's misfortune by buying their properties at substantially less than the going rate – and then only letting them stay on a short-term tenancy basis."

For those people who cannot pay their rent or are worried they may not be able to in the future, the message from Directgov is clear – sort things out as soon as you can.

Tenants are advised to prioritise the debts they need to pay off and, most importantly, to talk through their problems with their landlord.

Landlords usually have the right to evict for rent arrears depending on their tenancy agreement, so it is important they are always kept informed of their tenant's current situation.

A number of groups exist to provide help and advice to people such as struggling homeowners, including the Consumer Credit Counselling Service and Community Legal Advice.

Shelter also gives advice on all types of housing issues, as does the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Essential guide to where you can save

- Cox & Son furniture store in Ramsgate is offering to upgrade your carpet underlay for free, give super for standard price, and deluxe for super price
- Avalone Flooring Ltd in Strood is offering 10 per cent off laminates
- Avinco Limited in Ramsgate is offering a free consultation on digital TV
- Bourne Road Garage in Crayford is offering a free tank of fuel with all Mazda purchases new and used
- Clarkes Furnishers in Maidstone is offering £50 off the sale price when you buy any stressless chair and stool
- Stonecroft Emporium in Margate is offering free glowing bunny ears free when you buy a UV Tutu skirt
- Lenleys in Canterbury is offering an extra £2 sq m off sale price of any carpet order over 15sq m, which includes underlay. Free fitting for standard rooms
- Nasons in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off beds and bedroom furniture
- Old Sawmills in Ashford is offering 20 per cent off all showroom items
- PK Commercial Tyres in Ashford and Maidstone is offering £10 off MOTs
- KOS is offering ultra slim Danish Skagen watches only £69.99 save £20 on the RRP
- Thorley Tavern's Oak Hotel in Ramsgate is offering 20 per cent off its bar-food menu

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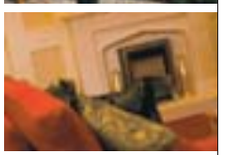

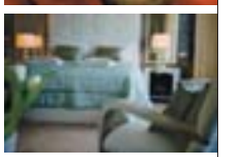

Making a budget can control your money

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

CREATING an accurate personal budget will help to cut-out needless expenses and save money during these times of economic hardship.

Realistic records of funds coming in and out allow people need to know how much spare cash they have available when speaking to creditors, who can then advise on ways to pay back the money owed back over a period of time.

"Keep a record of everything you spend money on to complete an accurate picture of your monthly expenditure," is the advice issued by the Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS).

The Financial Services Authority (FSA), the national financial watchdog, provides an online budget calculator and the Government has also provided a step-by-step guide to make the process as painless as possible at its Directgov website.

The first step for creating a personal budget is to calculate 'outgoings' by digging out recent bank statements, energy bills, telephone bills, council tax, water rates, insurance and other similar expenses.

Also include anything paid for by standing orders such as mortgage or rent payments.

Estimate the amount spent on everyday items such as food, clothes, petrol, pet food and newspapers as well as cash forked out for other 'events' like Christmas, birthday presents, going to the dentist and holidays.

Calculate total outgoings for a full year and then divide by 52 or 12 to get a weekly or monthly figure.

Income is worked out through checking payslips to get an accurate figure for wages, plus any benefits such as child tax credit and any rent from lodgers or adult children.

To see this clip, search 'travel'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

One of the biggest family costs is the holiday. We look at how to save money and enjoy what's on your doorstep

Add up the total income for a week or a month and then take away the expenditure.

If there is a 'shortfall' or more money is being spent than is coming in, the Government advises people to "prioritise spending and cut back on commitments you can't afford".

Money can be saved by 'shopping around' to find the best deal on gas, electric and telephone bills, surviving on the bare essentials and dealing with debts immediately.

People have also been advised to find out if they are owed any additional benefits or tax credits and to ensure that everyone in the household who is working is paying their share.

A budget is only an estimate of income and it is important to keep track of money coming in and expenses to keep your plan up-to-date and accurate.

The Government's money experts advise keeping a notebook to hand and writing down everything spent over the course of a couple of months.

Budgets need reviewed regularly in case a new job comes along or there are other changes in circumstance.

Spare money can be kept in savings accounts and the FSA can provide good personal financial advice, the Government added.

For more information visit www.direct.gov.uk, www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk, www.cccs.co.uk or call the CCCS' hotline on 0800 138 1111.

Essential guide to where you can save

- County Bed Company in Strood and Tonbridge is offering 10 per cent off any mattress when purchased with a bedstead
- Lenleys in Canterbury is offering an extra 10 per cent off sale prices of rugs, pictures, mirrors and lighting
- Nasons in Wincheap, Canterbury, is offering 10 per cent off carpets
- Oliver Carpets in Ramsgate and Herne Bay is offering 15 per cent off when you spend more than £600
- Pomphreys Motors in Bapchild and Sittingbourne is offering car rental – book one day and get the second free
- Robins and Day Motors in Canterbury is offering a free winter health check on production of KOS voucher (normal RRP £19.99)
- Atlantis Restaurant in Ramsgate is offering 25 per cent off food from the a la carte menu
- Theatre Royal in Margate is offering Gusset, March 7, 7.30, two tickets for one top price ticket (£12 each)
- Ideal Home Improvements in Sheerness is offering 10 per cent off advertised rates
- Kitchen to Table in Rochester is offering £10 off goods with an order value £50
- KOS – Save £200 on the Toyota CB04T Mark II sewing machine only £99.99 inc p&p
- Thorley Tavern in Broadstairs is offering a free glass of wine with The Table d hote menu Monday to Friday

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Demand a better mobile deal today

HANG UP: Save money on your mobile phone

BY **STEVE KNIGHT**

MOBILE telephones have become an essential part of everyday life over the past decade, albeit a pricey part at that.

Whether on contract or pay-as-you-go, most of us now pay more money to speak to friends and family than at any time in the past.

The average mobile phone bill is £205.20 a year, but industry experts claim that figure could be much lower if users took the time to research the different tariffs available.

Consumer finance journalist Martin Lewis, who in 2003 founded MoneySavingExpert.com, said: "Anyone on a contract mobile phone is holstering a serious money-saving weapon, and that's loyalty.

"When nearing the end of the contract, ask for the very best deal possible – not just on your network, but any out there.

"If the person at the other end won't budge, tell them 'give me a better package or I'll leave' and you'll be put through to the disconnections department, which internally is called 'customer retentions' and has massively more discretion to offer better packages to keep you.

"If they don't give you what you want then you need to shift networks to a better deal."

There are many other ways to save money on mobile telephones, such as considering whether it is really worth insuring your handset given that you could probably afford to buy a new one when you add up all the monthly charges.

People looking to save money should also cut down on the obvious unnecessary expenses associated with downloading music tracks, ringtones and wallpapers that can sometimes cost up to £3.50 a time.

There are also ways in which you can make money from your mobile telephone, such as recycling one that you no longer use.

The Carphone Warehouse gives up to £20 off a new handset if you trade in your old one.

Persuading a friend to sign up to the same network as you can also earn you a tidy sum. 3Mobile, for instance, gives £30 to both parties if you recommend a friend and they sign a contract.

That figure rises to £45 each if you sign up for mobile broadband.

But perhaps the simplest piece of advice is to consider what it is you really need from your telephone.

If you can live without a satellite navigation system, a powerful camera and other non-call or text-related add-ons, chances are your handset will cost you a lot less.

To see this clip, search 'business'
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We look at the pros and cons of setting up a small business in 2009 and ask if now is the right time to go it alone

Essential guide to where you can save

- County Bed Company in Strood and Tonbridge is offering a free memory foam pillow with any memory foam divan or mattress
- Lindsay's Driver Training in Hythe is offering for you to train to be a driving instructor with £50 off a part 1 study pack
- Nasons in Canterbury is offering 10 per cent off tiles
- Pomphreys in Sittingbourne is offering half price MOT with every service
- The Pavilion in Broadstairs is offering a buy two get one free breakfast from 9.30-11.30am, on Saturday and Sunday

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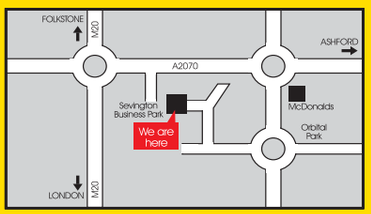

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Crunch can make your will out of date

THE CREDIT crisis has made thousands of wills across Kent out of date and in need of rewriting, experts have warned.

The Law Society, which represents solicitors in England and Wales, said the economic slowdown that has seen home values plummeting and other investment struggling meant that many assets in a person's will had lost their value.

Paul Marsh, president of the society, said: "Those wanting to leave friends and family in a secure position after they pass away might find that what they have left in their will has considerably less value than when their solicitor wrote it.

Tax planning

"With homes losing value, people may need to look again at their wills – especially if they have included tax planning provisions which are no longer appropriate.

"The same goes for shares and other assets. The value of the assets in a person's will might have fallen significantly since it was drafted and so the will may need to be rewritten."

The Government charges inheritance tax on assets left in wills, which is affected by how much is left and to whom.

Mr Marsh said: "It is essential that anyone with a will who has not looked to update it recently goes to their solicitor to review it and, if needs be, change it to reflect their current financial situation.

"A solicitor is best placed to advise on any necessary amendments, as well as provide guidance on tax planning.

"Reducing the tax burden on the assets you wish to leave in your will has an even more relevant benefit for your family and friends in the current economic climate.

"If you do not have a will, now would be a good time to write one or risk leaving friends, families or other intended recipients of your assets with nothing."

If you are feeling the pinch due to the economic downturn, Citizens Advice Bureaus can offer advice on creating and maintaining wills.

Money left to husbands, wives or civil partners count as an 'exempt beneficiary' and there usually won't be any inheritance tax to pay.

Up to £312,000 can be left to anyone tax free and anything above that it is taxable at 40 per cent.

Inheritance tax does not have to be paid on assets or money left to a registered UK charity.

The Law Society urged everyone to ensure their wills were up to date.

And the Solicitors Journal reported last week that the effects of the economic downturn were already being felt at HM Revenue and Customs in Nottingham after the revenue reported receiving a lot of claims for loss on sale of shares.

For more information and advice on writing wills go to www.direct.gov.uk or www.lawsociety.org.uk.

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Triple-whammy drives motorists to think meaner, leaner and greener

By **STEVE LOADER**

IT NORMALLY takes five to seven years to bring a new car to the market, so hard-pressed carmakers deserve credit for so much choice in a market made suddenly harder.

They and their buyers faced a triple-whammy last year: the recognition of global warming, a need to be seen to be greener and now a belt-tightening recession of global proportions.

The Government has also attempted to drive people into smaller and cleaner cars through new road tax bandings ranging from zero to £400/year and set to become tougher.

By 2010, gas guzzling limos or 4x4s face £950 road tax in the first year, although anyone spending £50,000-100,000 on a car is unlikely to be put off by such a paltry sum.

For those who want to reduce their motoring costs and emissions footprint though, 2009 opened with plenty of options.

The headline grabber is Toyota's all-new IQ baby car. Seating three adults and a child within a bodyshell barely longer than a two-seat Smart city car is no mean feat by the world's No1 carmaker. It entailed clever downsizing of traditional components and yet the IQ has looks and equipment to become a cult car.

Talking of which, Fiat has not done so badly with its retro-styled 500 city car – in its junior form it offers affordable road presence as well as great economy.

Most carmakers are also falling over themselves to come up with 'eco-branding' for the most miserly and low-emission versions of top sellers; German car marques have a strange urge to describe their greenest offerings as 'blue' hence the BlueMotion series from VW and rather less snappily labelled BlueEfficiency models from Mercedes-Benz.

In their usual bid to be different from each other, Vauxhall and Ford have each come up with something similar: the greenest Vauxhalls are ecoFLEX, while Ford counterparts are ECOlogic.

The duo's newest standard bearers are the Vauxhall Insignia ecoFLEX family/company car sector model and Ford's impressive road tax-exempt Fiesta ECOlogic.

Such 'eco-specials' can achieve improved fuel consumption, emissions and road tax bills with a mix of enhanced aerodynamics, revised engine management and gearbox ratios and lower rolling resistance tyres.

However, they don't come cheap, so weigh potential long-term savings against the greater upfront cost – if you don't cover the miles, then conventional alternatives may be a better bet.

Don't ignore petrol models either; the higher price of diesel cars and the fuel at the pumps need to be compared with new and more powerful small petrol models available such as VW's new turbocharged 1.4-litre variants.

On the wider issue of alternative fuels see our Fuel For Thought feature later in this section.

TOYOTA IQ: Proper car in small package

ULTRA GREEN: Ford's Fiesta is out now – the ECOnetic

VAUXHALL: Has adopted ecoFlex branding for the greenest versions of its model line-up

Essential guide to where you can save

- Lindsay's Driver Training in Hythe is offering ADi Training course – £30 off two hour session
- Lordswood Leisure Centre in Chatham is offering free function hire
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Motability

GET REAL CHEVROLET

Smart driving saves money

By **STEVE LOADER**

SWAPPING your car for something more economical, road-tax friendly and cheaper to insure is an obvious way to tighten your motoring belt, but we can all save money with smarter driving.

Try to avoid short journeys for a start; a cold engine can produce 60 per cent more pollution than a warm one and a car that leads a life of short journeys needs more servicing and the engine will wear more quickly.

Traffic on our roads contributes 26 per cent of the UK's total carbon dioxide emissions (CO2) but, having decided your journey must be by car, check these tips from the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) and RAC Foundation motoring watchdogs:

• Plan your route – forethought can save wear and tear on the car and the driver. Try to take the most direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off peak if possible. If you have to commute by car, think about car sharing, 'Park and Ride' schemes or public transport.

• Have your vehicle serviced regularly to maintain efficiency and economy. Under-serviced engines can reduce fuel economy by 10 per cent or more. Catalytic converters are environmentally friendly, but only when properly maintained.

• Check tyres – under-inflated tyres need replacing more often (itself an environmental problem), are dangerous and waste fuel. Anybody who has cycled on 'flabby' tyres knows what extra effort is involved, so check pressures weekly.

• Obey speed limits to save money and keep you on the right side of the law. Try to 'feather' the throttle as you reach cruising speed; 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style can bring significant fuel saving.

However, never coast in neutral or with clutch pedal depressed to save fuel; vehicle control must not be compromised.

• Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Use the gearbox efficiently as changing gear at modest engine speeds can cut fuel consumption by up to 15 per cent.

• Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use. Driving with windows open also mars aerodynamics and lowers fuel economy. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and avoid heavy accessories and wide tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning lowers fuel economy so use the fan and vents unassisted as much as possible.

• Buy green fuel and use less. Find out if you can buy low sulphur diesel (City diesel) or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics) locally. Consider a conversion to LPG (liquid petroleum gas), which is half the price of petrol, generates almost as much power and emits much less CO2.

• Use 'accelerator sense'. Do you go straight from accelerator to the brake? You save fuel if you plan ahead and, rather than have to brake as you hit traffic, gently let the speed of the vehicle bring you to a halt as you join a queue. There is no point in rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

• Reverse in when you park. When you start off again, the engine is cold and inefficient. If you can drive away smoothly without having to reverse, you save fuel and have better visibility.

• Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and carry more weight than is necessary?

• If you are stuck in a jam then you are doing zero mpg – turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community.

ECONOMY: Review your driving techniques to save money all round (top) and (below) keep on top of tyre pressures to save fuel and wear and tear

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Fuel for thought

By **STEVE LOADER**

MORE than ever, UK drivers are asked to think about what is cheapest and best to run their car on.

Diesel has become first choice, accounting for more than half of all new car sales, but can it continue?

Part of diesel's appeal was cheapness, greater mpg and the ability of the engines to deliver low-down pulling power and meet tighter emissions legislation.

However, the fuel now commands an increasing premium against petrol and there are questions about whether the fuel can continue to meet ever-tighter emission laws.

In addition, petrol has fought back with smaller, lighter and cleaner engines with turbocharging and even supercharging for extra flexibility, but there are other power source candidates emerging to save money and the planet:

Hybrid

Toyota is readying the third generation of its ground-breaking Prius hybrid and Honda plans the launch of a new Insight family hatchback priced to attack the likes of the Ford Focus. Both hybrids use petrol engines in tandem with electric units.

But two powerplants and power supplies – fuel tank plus batteries – mean more weight, while complexity of production questions profitability. If you're considering a hybrid you need to be covering many miles to justify extra upfront cost and bear in mind motorway mpg is hardly better than a standard car.

LPG

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) looks like an excellent alternative fuel due to lower fuel duty and emissions, cheaper car tax and grants towards the higher cost of buying new or converting older verhicles to run on LPG.

There is also a plentiful UK LPG supply as a spin-off from natural gas and refinery production of other fuels.

There are many more LPG filling points across the country too – Kent now has some 40 LPG sites – and Proton recently launched a petrol and LPG version of its GEN-2 family hatchback for the same price as the petrol-only model (£10,765).

LPG costs about half that of petrol and diesel at the pump, emits about 20 per cent less CO2 than petrol and slightly less than diesel and fewer nitrogen oxides and particulates than diesel. However, the calorific value and mpg is slightly lower than for petrol and it will cost at least £1,500 to convert an existing vehicle via an approved LPG Association operator.

Electric

Electric-powered vehicles should be cheap to run, but battery technology is not yet advanced enough to guarantee ranges to satisfy would-be owners. There is the obvious worry too that the car's emissions are being transferred from the exhaust pipe to the chimney of a power station burning fossil fuel.

Biofuels

Biofuels derived partly from vegetable matter appeal since plants absorb CO2 during growth and simply release it again when burned – a virtuous circle. Fuels derived with an element of plant matter divide broadly into biodiesel and the petrol alternative bioethanol, and most road fuels sold in the UK will contain at least five per cent biofuel by next year, anyway. Some specialist vehicles are available that can run on higher 'bio' concentrations, but there is concern that turning over arable land or forest to grow 'biofuel' plants will strain the world's food supplies.

Hydrogen

Use of this abundant gas to power electrically-driven cars – Honda already has an extensive trial running in California – looks like the future. Hydrogen cars are zero emission, but it is proving hard to establish the cost and possible emissions side-effects of producing the hydrogen fuel.

Peugeot's smooth diesel models have done much to persuade UK drivers to switch from petrol and this Peugeot 308 HYbrid 2 concept shows how the French marque is also looking at a diesel-electric combination for the future

Essential guide to where you can save

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- Aylesford Self Storage in Aylesford is offering free used boxes for all storage customers
- Home Plus Furniture in Ashford/Chatham is offering £75 off when you spend over £500
- FG Barnes in Maidstone is offering a free MOT for period of ownership when done with a service
- Orchard Spot in Maidstone is offering 10 per cent off a wedding package. Must be booked on February 15 at wedding fayre
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Open Market HomeBuy

Open Market HomeBuy is funded by the Government and co-ordinated by the Housing Corporation.

It is an equity loan scheme provided through HomeBuy agents and designed to help households earning between £20,000-60,000 a year to buy their own homes on the open market.

MyChoiceHomeBuy

MyChoiceHomeBuy is funded in part by the Government and is offered by Moat which is an equity loan provider in its own right.

Key features

- You can borrow between 15-50 per cent of the property price;
- You pay a monthly interest charge on the loan based on 1.75 per cent a year;
- You obtain a conventional mortgage from any qualified lender;
- You would not have to pay a deposit;
- You choose a suitable property on the open market.

Ownhome

Ownhome is provided by a partnership between Places for People and the Co-operative Bank and is partly funded by the Government. Places for People is an equity loan provider in its own right.

Key features

- You can borrow between 20-40 per cent of the property price;
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- You do not have to make any payments on the equity loan for the first five years;
- After these five years, you will be charged at a fixed rate of 1.75 per cent interest on the equity loan each year. After a further five years this will increase to a fixed rate of 3.75 per cent;
- You would not have to pay a deposit.

HomeBuy
www.homebuy.co.uk

With the pressures of affordability rising, the difficulties that first-time buyers face in buying a home are well documented.

Kent on Sunday explores the extensive benefits of the HomeBuy products available to help local people purchase affordable homes.

Please contact Places for People on 0845 607 0110 or visit www.ownhome.co.uk or www.homebuy.co.uk.

New Build HomeBuy

Moat works in partnership with developers to build new homes on a part-buy/part-rent basis through New Build HomeBuy.

As the HomeBuy agent for Kent, Essex and Sussex, Moat can also offer buyers new-build properties through other housing associations.

Applicants usually purchase 50 per cent shares, though shares between 25 and 75 per cent may be available. A subsidised rent is payable on the remaining share.

Resales

Moat manages more than 4,000 properties on a part-buy/part-rent basis. Some of these homes and those managed by other housing associations become available for resale.

Moat will give interested applicants the opportunity to purchase the share from the existing owner.

New Build Discounted Rent

Discounted Rent is predominantly for key workers, however, on occasion other priority individuals can be accepted.

The scheme offers the opportunity to rent a newly built home, at approximately 80 per cent of market rents in the surrounding areas.

It is also possible that at a later date you may be able to purchase the property under the terms of New Build HomeBuy.

Rent to HomeBuy

This is a pilot scheme to support first-time buyers into affordable home ownership by renting first and buying later.

Eligible households earning £60,000 a year or less can rent a new home at specific new-build developments.

The rent will be payable at a discounted rate for a period of two to three years. You will have the option to buy a share in the home.

Social HomeBuy

Social HomeBuy offers some housing association residents the opportunity to buy either a share or 100 per cent of the home they currently rent.

Please contact Moat's Social HomeBuy Officer, Saira Newvell, on 0845 359 6161, to obtain further information.

First-Time Buyers' Initiative (FTBI)

Moat offers FTBI new-build homes in the South East. You have 100 per cent ownership of your home and take out an affordable mortgage for a minimum of 50 per cent of the full purchase price.

The Government then provides additional assistance to buy up to the full purchase price.

Please contact Sarah Bowden, Moat's FTBI sales and marketing officer on 0845 359 6161.

What other costs do I need to be aware of with any of these schemes?

An independent financial adviser will be able to explain the costs of buying and Moat can offer a list of recommended financial advisors who are familiar with Moat and the HomeBuy schemes.

Where do I go for further advice?

Moat should be your first point of contact for enquiries about eligibility and the application process for any of the schemes.

Telephone 0845 359 6161 or email marketing@moat.co.uk.

CASE STUDY

Name:
Stephen Dell and Jo-Anne Dell
Area:
St Mary's Island, Chatham
Type:
New Build HomeBuy (NBHB)

STEPHEN and Jo-Anne purchased 25 per cent of a three-bedroom house through Moat's New Build HomeBuy (NBHB) programme in November, 2008, and pay Moat a subsidised rent on the remaining 75 per cent of the property.

They will have the opportunity to purchase more shares of their property and eventually even own it outright.

Their application was accepted by Moat in August, 2008, and Stephen and Jo-Anne moved into the home they found at St Mary's Island in Chatham two months later.

Their new home has enough bedrooms for their daughters, Ruby and Gracie, to each have a room of their own. The downstairs floor is open-plan providing plenty of space for the girls to play.

Previously, Stephen and Jo-Anne had rented a two-bedroom house in Thamesmead, south London, but found the house too small.

Added to this, they couldn't find a school for Gracie due to overcrowding and the property had no assigned parking.

Stephen found out about Moat and NBHB while searching for new homes on the internet and applied online in August, 2008.

The family bought their property after viewing it at the end of the same month.

Jo-Anne said: "Our previous home wasn't the right place for us to spend the rest of our lives. We are so happy here at St Mary's Island. From the moment we first pulled up in the car I knew this is where our family should live."

Stephen said: "Our new home is so spacious and the way of life here is so much better. Ruby and Gracie have both got places at the school on the island and the neighbourhood is safe. Without Moat there is no way we could have moved to somewhere like St Mary's Island."

moat developments in Kent

Ventura — St Mary's Island, Chatham

Moat is offering seven, three-bedroom houses at St Mary's Island. Each home offers:

- Fully fitted kitchen with oven, hob and hood
- Fridge/freezer
- Vinyl floors to all lower floor
- Carpets to stairs and upper floors
- Gas central heating
- Garage

Purchase prices at Ventura begin at £75,000. The minimum percentage you can buy is 25 per cent and the properties are available to reserve from plan now on a New Build HomeBuy basis. The minimum income for a single buyer is £33,500 and the minimum joint income is £37,750.

Developer **Countryside Properties**

Arterra — Faversham

Moat is offering 16, two-bedroom apartments and one, one-bedroom apartment at Arterra in Faversham. Each apartment offers:

- Fitted kitchens including oven hob and hood
- Washer/dryer
- Carpet to living areas
- Resident parking spaces
- Communal gardens to the apartments
- Ten-year NHBC guarantee

Purchase prices at Arterra begin at £115,000. The minimum percentage you can buy is 25 per cent and the properties are available on a New Build HomeBuy basis. The minimum income for a single buyer is £14,650 and the minimum joint income is £16,750.

Developer **Rialto**

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Available to first time buyers

2 Waterstone Park - Greenhithe

5 x one and two bedroom houses and apartments available

Purchase a home from £38,750
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers

3 The Bridge - Dartford

3 x two and three bedroom houses available

Purchase a home from £48,750
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Available to first time buyers

4 Sycamore Place - Edenbridge

15 x one and two bedroom apartments available

Purchase a home from £41,250
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers

5 Sovereign Quarter - Gillingham

11 x one and two bedroom apartments and 10 x two, three and four bedroom houses available

Purchase a home from £37,500
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers

6 Bridgefield - Ashford

21 x two and three bedroom houses available

Purchase a home from £38,250
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers

7 Arterra - Faversham

17 x one and two bedroom apartments available

Purchase a home from £23,750
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers

8 Meadowbank - Sittingbourne

9 x two bedroom apartments available

Purchase a home from £30,000
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers

9 Medway Gate - Cuxton

13 x two, three and four bedroom houses available

Purchase a home from £42,500
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers and existing home owners

10 The Kilns - Ditton

3 x two bedroom maisonettes available

Purchase a home from £41,250
Based on a 25% share purchase
Available to first time buyers

visit us or call us on 0845 359 6161

www.moat.co.uk

What is 'New Build HomeBuy'?

Also known as part buy/part rent, this government funded initiative helps first time buyers to get a foot on the property ladder. It's simple, you purchase a share in the property and at a later stage, when you can afford to do so, you can buy the remainder. A subsidised rent is payable on the un-owned share.

Housing associations such as Moat now assists households on incomes of up to £60,000. Minimum income and other eligibility criteria also apply. Contact Moat now for an application form and we'll send you details of forthcoming open days.

Please be aware that certain eligibility criteria applies. Your home is at risk if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage, rent or any other loan secured on it. Please note that the market value of properties can go down as well as up. Selected homes are available exclusively for key workers, though the definition varies. Please contact Moat for details of the key worker definition for each scheme. Moat Homes Limited is a charitable organisation. 01/09

HomeBuy a government-led initiative

moat

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*This represents a share of the open market value of a property at the stated development. A rent & service charge is also payable. Terms and conditions and an eligibility criteria applies. **For further information on Ownhome please visit www.ownhome.co.uk. ***On selected plots and subject to terms and conditions and criteria.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements In partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400
For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ARCHBOLD
Bethany Ellen born on 13th January 2009, weighing 6lbs 9oz. A daughter to Craig and Melody, and a sister to Millie Jayne.

BEARDSMORE
Adam and Kelly are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Holly Olivia on the 7th January 2009 weighing 7lb 8oz.

BENNETT
Harvey Kenneth born on 5th January 2009, weighing 8lb 11oz. Son to Bethany and Lee of Dover. Brother to Amy.

BLYTHE
Isabella Elizabeth born on 10th November 2008, weighing 7lb. Daughter to Lee and Jodie Blythe in Broadstairs. A beloved sister to James and Lily.

CAMERON
Christopher Cameron and Madeline Neely celebrate the birth of their son Jacob John on 31st December 2008, a brother for Jade.

CANNON-ALLUM
Katy-Louise born on 29th December 2008 weighing 7lb 2oz. Daughter to Sally and Michael and sister to TJ of Dover.

DUNK
Hayley and Richard of Herne Bay decided to skip Xmas dinner and instead Hayley produced Charlie James who weighed in at a whopping 101b 3oz – Hayley was stunned! But both parents and grandparents are very proud.

EDWARDS
Mat and Kate of Maidstone are delighted to announce the birth of their gorgeous surprise baby boy Jude William Edwards born on 8th January 2009 at 9:03pm.

EDWARDS
Hannah and Simon Edwards celebrate the birth of their son Thomas Arthur William born on 5th January 2009. A brother to Benjamin.

FINN
Lisa Kemp and David Finn celebrate the birth of their daughter Milly Marie on 27th December 2008.

GOODYER
Vincent and Claire Goodyer celebrate the birth of their son Oliver Glyn Goodyer on 8th January 2009. Weighing 8lb 12oz.

HARPER
Faith-Dorothy Jane born on 16th December 2008, weighing 8lb 10oz. Daughter to the proud new Mum, Kimberley Jane Harper. Granddaughter to Jane and Steve Harper.

HOFFMANN
Achim and Anne celebrate the birth of their daughter Alexandra and their sons Maximilian and Thomas on 12th January 2009.

INGLIS
Gemma and David celebrate the birth of their daughter Emily Hope on 10th December 2008. Our most beautiful and precious daughter.

ISOM
Emma Isom of Herne Bay is proud to announce the birth of baby Max Ronald Stephen Isom on 4th January 2009. First Grandchild of Stephen and Myleta Isom.

JONES
Joanna and Gary celebrate the birth of their son Dylan Arthur on 29th December 2008.Our most beautiful and precious son.

JOSEPH
Elliot and Kerry Joseph celebrate the birth of their Daughter Sloane Anais Joseph on 8th January 2009 weighing 8lb 7oz sister to Louis Jon.

KNEVITT-BEADLE
Wendy and Andrew are very pleased to announce the long awaited arrival of their two precious sons Joseph and Oliver. Born on 24th December 2008 at Pembury Hospital.

LEWIS
Welcome to the world Haydn! Son to Sharon and Andy, with lots of love Mummy and Daddy.

MARSH
Cheryl Benetton of Ramsgate celebrates the birth of her son Corey William Gary Marsh on 21st December 2008.

MORTON
Caiden Rhys born on 17th December 2008,weighing 8lb 7.5oz. Son to Kira. My most beautiful and precious son.

MULLER
Mark, Stephanie and Darcie are pleased to announce the birth of Harry on New Year's Day.

NICHOLS
Della and Paul Nichols celebrate the birth of their son Joe Anthony Nichols on 8th January 2009.

O'CALLAGHAN
Gemma Johnston and Sean O'Callaghan of Tunbridge Wells celebrate the birth of their beautiful daughter Sienna Lorraine on the 21st December 2008 wighing 6lb 11oz.

RANDALL
Gareth and Emma are delighted to announce the arrival of their beautiful daughters Evie and Grace on 26th December 2008 at Pembury Hospital.

REET
Chance Ruth Bea born on 5th January 2009, weighing 8lbs. Daughter to Peter and Tina of Dover. Sister to Camelia, Aaron, Ashley and Cara.

STRANGE
Karly Belsey and Luke Strange of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their son George Andrew Strange on 3rd January 2009.

WHITCOMB
Jon Ivar born on the Second January 2009 weighing 5lb 3oz. One way of saying how much your loved by all friends and family.

WILSON
Roxy Lou born on 12th January 2009, weighing 8lbs.3oz. Daughter to Lesley and Gary in Margate.Little sister to James and Brad. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

WRIGHT
Amy and Luke of Dover celebrate the birth of their son Jack Stephen Thomas on 4th January 2009. Our most beautiful and precious son.

DEATHS

HARVEY
Ivy Louvain Harvey on 19th January 2009 aged 92 years. Dearly loved mother of Dianne Hadley and son-in-law Peter, and grandchildren Rebecca and Adam.

HOLMES
Bernard Reginald Holmes passed away peacefully on 14th January 2009. Funeral will be held at Vinters Park on Thursday 5th February 2009. Sadly missed by family and friends, reunited with Hilda May Holmes.

TOWNEND
Margaret Ann Townend died peacefully on 12th January 2009. Funeral service at Thanet Crematorium on 28 January 2009 at 10.40am. Everyone welcome.

Letters continued from page 32

complete mess of our education system and presided over a massive fall in standards that has blighted and will continue to blight the lives of millions of children.

The Tories haven't the courage any more to stand up for parental rights and a selective education system, at home or in school, that will guarantee every child the right to the highest level of education commensurate with its needs, abilities and ambitions.

Gerry O'Donnell, Ramsgate

Efficiency is punished

Medway Council, of which I am cabinet portfolio holder for adult social care, has received its Government formula grant settlement.

As in previous years, it has had £4.3 million deducted for so-called 'floor damping', the amount the Government takes from us to give to other councils.

Medway Council has a very low tax base because in recent years we have kept our local tax as low as possible. We are aware that people on fixed incomes, such as pensioners, cannot afford to pay high taxes.

Our local tax is one of the lowest in the country. Consequently our formula grant settlement is very low. The example I give is Brighton and Hove council, with demographics very much the same as Medway (deprivation, etc), yet it receives £25m more by way of the Government formula grant. Brighton charges band D taxpayers £150 more per annum, giving them £13m more than Medway, which means it has £38m more to spend on service provision. How can that be fair? I am very much of the opinion that the formula grant is wrong, unfair and should be changed.

I call on the Local Government Association to demand change from the Government. It seems that because we are prudent, efficient and give value for money, we are penalised.

Cllr Tom Mason, Frindsbury, Rochester

Labour isn't working

Woolworths, Adams, Viyella, Wedgwood, Land Rover – the list seems never ending. A day can't go by without the announcement of yet more job losses. Big business is suffering as much as the small and medium-sized firms we see on every high street. So why can't the Government adopt the Conservative loan guarantee scheme and extend it to all businesses and industries, large or small?

I also suspect Labour's scheme will be so bureaucratic that small and medium-sized businesses will not know about it or how to access it, as many are not fortunate enough to have a team of accountants advising them.

Business needs credit to start flowing again and payment holidays from HMR&C.

Business needs the repeal of stupid laws and diktats that govern the way firms have to be run. Businesses and consumers needs less taxation, not more. Only then will our economy start to repair itself.

Cllr Julie Rook, Dover

In defence of selection

Although I empathise with the views of Robert Duncan Martin and Dave Stewart, (Letters, January 18), I'm afraid their efforts are wasted.

Mr Frey's obsession with the 11-plus and grammar schools transcends rational argument. The fact that thousands of children from poor families, like myself, benefited from the 11-plus and benefited this country, is water off a duck's back to him. He would rather we all struggled together in a one-size-fits-all system and took the luck of the draw, while continuing to import skilled people from countries with more enlightened educational systems to make up our shortfall. He is also in denial about the fact we have children with special needs – not only below, but also above the national average.

Some of those will possibly to become the great scientists, innovators, thinkers and Nobel prize winners of our age. Mr Frey wants to make certain none from the lower classes will attain these heady heights.

Tories want grammar schools closed because they are a threat to private schools. Labour wants them closed because everybody must win prizes and none should rise above the average, except their own children.

It may be some comfort to Mr Frey that some Labour MPs who send their children to private schools, appear to be succeeding in the levelling down of our educational system.

The problem may be, if they have too much success, where will they send they're own children?

Phil Granger, West Malling

Hook, line and stinker

The proposal by the EU to allow member state governments to set their own fishing quotas for each protected species has noble ambitions, but as ever the devil is in the detail. Under new plans, Britain's 1.4 million sea anglers could be forced to record their catches, turning a popular hobby into a laborious form-filling exercise.

Shore anglers are understandably furious, while the idea that each boat or dinghy will have to be registered and every possible launch point policed is a bureacratic nightmare in the making. For the EU to target recreational sea anglers after years of fudging the commercial fishing industry problem is both lazy and misguided.

Happily, Defra threw out a recent proposal on licencing sea anglers after robust lobbying from the Countryside Alliance. We will be looking for a similar rejection this time.

Simon Hart, Chief Executive, Countryside Alliance

Cancer charge victory

I would like to thank all KOS Media readers who helped Macmillan Cancer Support campaign for free prescription charges for cancer patients.

We simply could not have achieved this without your help. After three years of pushing for this change, we are delighted the Government has listened and abolished prescription charges for cancer patients from April 1 this year. Cancer not only threatens your life, it can also make you poor, and free prescriptions will transform the lives of thousands of people living with cancer who were struggling to pay for drugs.

All cancer patients are now entitled to apply for a five-year exemption certificate, which will entitle them to all their NHS prescriptions free, not just those relating to cancer. It covers those who need prescriptions for the treatment for cancer, the effects of cancer, or the effects of cancer treatment. The certificate can be renewed as many times as necessary. To get an application form, visit your GP or oncology clinic. And if you have already paid for an annual prepayment certificate, you can get a refund for the months after April. For further information, visit www.dh.gov.uk/helpwithhealthcosts or call 0845 610 1112.

Stephen Richards, Regional Director, Macmillan Cancer Support

Brown versus bankers

I hope those who complained that Gordon Brown raided their savings to invest for the nation's future will now see the error of their thinking and sing his praises.

He invested wisely. Better for the Government to raid the kitty and use the money to benefit society than to have left our money to the tender care of bankers.

They seem only to have been concerned with lining their own pockets, then blew the rest of our money on dodgy deals. Margaret Thatcher said there was "no such thing as society". She believed in deregulation, laissez-faire, the free market – and the Tories have paid the price for her arrogance. They lost three elections and bankers' salaries boomed as the banks went bust.

Ken Clarke may be an old Tory big hitter, but even he cannot alter the facts and the failures of the Thatcher/Major era.

Ivan Armstrong, Meopham

Health scare centres

Government plans to introduce large health centres across England will, we believe, result in a decline in standards of care.

At a recent League of Friends meeting, disbelief was voiced that the Government was intent on changing something that already works. Concern was also expressed for the possible loss of the personal relationship between doctor and patient.

Since most NHS GPs' surgeries are independently run on behalf of patients, providing what is deemed necessary and sometimes working in conjunction with other surgeries, why can't the Government let the practice continue, with additional funding for extra services?

The plan to introduce commercial companies into managing health centres is further cause for concern, since their interests may be at variance with general healthcare and at a vast and unnecessary cost. If the Government was to go ahead with its plans, would not local surgeries in some areas be at risk? Like the loss of our post offices, it would hit communities in rural areas, causing more distress.

PE and DS Booth, Canterbury

Eloquence of Pilger

Thank you for reprinting John Pilger's New Statesman article (Opinion, January 18). We need wider access to factual, lucid reporting of the background to the unequal struggle in Palestine.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock, the former ambassador, has also been trying to set the record straight, and many Jews have tried to distance themselves from Israeli actions. But generally, in an unbalanced situation, in the name of balance our media and politicians have apparently accepted the Israelis would have the three weeks before President Obama's inauguration to do what they wanted.

Possibly there are enough powerful partisans to account for the positive reporting of the small pro-Israeli demonstration in Trafalgar Square and the negative, misleading report of the 10 times larger anti-massacre gathering at Hyde Park Corner.

I am ashamed to belong to a racist alliance which periodically showcases its most sophisticated arms by using the poorest populations as target practice and then goes on to reconstruct the results, often using public or charitable funds to pay their biggest corporations. The super salesman of these policies was Tony Blair, who now divides his time between making millions and impartially sorting out peace for the Israelis. When they were an idealistic state of efficient horticulturists, I did respect them. Now I boycott their produce.

Joanna Stobbs, Bridge, Canterbury

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Campus to Bridge the gap

TURF'S UP: Interim deputy chairman of governors, Bart Woodhouse, and Cllr Alex King at the ground-breaking ceremony

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

BUILDING work on Kent County Council's first-ever purpose-built learning campus officially began last week.

The £7.5 million development at Dartford's new Bridge housing estate will eventually include a primary school for up to 420 children, a 26-place nursery, a youth centre and a library.

There will also be provision for a community meeting room, police point, children's and adult social services, health consulting room and adult education centre.

KCC deputy leader Cllr Alex King dug the first turf for the development at a special ground-breaking ceremony last Friday.

He told guests the campus would prove to be of great benefit to the local community for generations to come.

Cllr King said: "This exciting development is a first for Kent and shows KCC's innovative approach.

"We have taken the opportunity to bring together all the necessary services for the Bridge in one place. Residents and pupils will enjoy all the benefits from this one-stop campus in the heart of Europe's largest regeneration project.

"In difficult economic times, projects like this provide an important demonstration of the commitment of all involved to a positive future for the people in this community."

Cllr King was joined at the ground-breaking ceremony by the interim deputy chairman of governors for the new school, Bart Woodhouse, and his three-year-old son Jacob.

Also in attendance were Bridge resident Debbie Hooker and her three-year-old son Samuel, Tina McFadzean from Kent-based architects HazleMcCormackYoung, and contractor Mansell's regional director for Kent, Phil Sims.

Mr Sims said: "We look forward to delivering a first-class facility that will provide a focal point and serve the needs of the new community."

The new school will include a central atrium, styled after the giant Eden Project in Cornwall, as well as a number of energy conservation features and facilities for the disabled.

Frequent buses take just six minutes to reach the site from Dartford town centre, with the emphasis at the Bridge placed firmly on keeping car use to a minimum by making it easy to walk around.

The Bridge is a joint development by Dartford council, ProLogis and George Wimpey.

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WORKSHOPS: Microsoft representatives gave lessons throughout the day to guests and students at New Line Learning Academy

Software giant outlines a new line of learning

COMPUTER giant Microsoft was represented by more than 100 visitors to Maidstone's New Line Learning Academy.

They were guests at a global education conference that allowed staff to showcase how such academies differ from schools.

Among the many countries represented were Hong Kong, Chile, the United States, Russia, Qatar and Germany.

Academy head Guy Hewett said: "This was an amazing event and being able to host some of the world leaders in education – and to be the only school in the UK to do this – shows just how important and successful innovative learning at NLL has become.

"I was particularly pleased to have senior people from Microsoft praising what we do here and commenting on how fantastic our students are."

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HMYOI ROCHESTER & COOKHAM WOOD

HMYOI Rochester is a closed Young Offender Institution, housing approximately 360 18-20 year olds serving sentences of up to four years. It is situated next to HMP Cookham Wood on the outskirts of Rochester. HMYOI Rochester implemented an additional 300 bed temporary custodial facility from Summer 2008 making it one of the largest sentenced Young Offenders Institutions in the UK.

HMYOI Cookham Wood near Rochester has become a Male Juvenile Centre, accommodating 15-17 year olds, commissioned by the Youth Justice Board.

You will be required to work in Rochester and Cookham Wood and will be subject to CRB enhanced clearance.

GRADE 3 PLUMBER
£19,851 RISING TO £21,074 PER ANNUM
THE WEALD OF KENT RESETTLEMENT
HMP BLANTYRE HOUSE & EAST SUTTON PARK

HMP Blantyre House is a semi open resettlement Prison with approximately 120 male prisoners. The Prison is situated in a rural location near Goudhurst.

HMP East Sutton Park first opened as a borstal in 1946. The prison is a Grade 2 listed country mansion house overlooking the Weald of Kent and is used to hold both adult and young offender women in open conditions.

You will be required to work in both Blantyre House and East Sutton Park.

For both positions, you will have gained a recognised apprenticeship and City & Guilds ordinary certificate or equivalent qualification and have proven relevant experience. A City & Guilds advanced certificate or equivalent qualifications, Corgi, Water Supply Regulations course and Water Treatments course would be desirable. You'll work 39 hours per week excluding meal breaks and be expected to work weekends on a rostered shift pattern.

In return, you'll receive 25 days' annual leave plus 10.5 public and privilege holidays per annum and entry into the Civil Service Pension by invitation.

To apply for these posts please email kent-sussex-area-recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk
Applicants will require an email address in order for applications to be sent to them.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 8 February 2009.

For further information about vacancies within HM Prison Service and about our Prison Establishments please visit www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

Applicants will be required to declare whether they are a member of a group or organisation, which the Prison Service considers to be racist.

Part-time working or job sharing will be considered.

The Prison Service is an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from candidates regardless of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, age (subject to being within the normal retirement age for the grade), sexual orientation, disability or any other irrelevant factor.

Ministry of JUSTICE
National Offender Management Service

Endorsed by Cut Service Commitment

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GENUINE OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

- CAN YOU PROVIDE A SAFE AND CARING HOME FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN?
- ARE YOU AN EXPERIENCED CARER LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE OR CHANGE?

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We would love to hear from you if you are interested or involved in Fostering and would like additional information.

Please contact: **01732 746697** or Email: **info@benecarefostering.co.uk**
Web: **www.benecarefostering.co.uk**

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

BeneCare Residential Child Care

Residential Support Workers – Child Care

Thanet Area • Salary Range – Circa 11.5 k 14,500 k p.a - plus increments

WE are an established and developing therapeutic Residential Children's Home in East Kent.

WE are looking for colleagues who can grow and learn with us to provide exceptional quality care for children and young people.

YOU want to be a committed Residential Social Care Professional able to deal constructively with challenges set by children and young people between the ages of 8 - 18 in a care home setting.

QUALIFICATIONS: NVQ 3 is preferable. *However Training will be provided for applicants with evident potential and / or relevant experience.*

CONTACT Manager Lyn Gibbs on 01227 369089
For further information and application details.
Email info@benecareltd.co.uk www.benecareltd.co.uk

TRENT

The UK's leading vehicle recovery & recycling company

Join our successful business!

Recruiting now at our **Paddock Wood** Site

HGV Class 2 Drivers

42.5 hours per week
Competitive Salary

HGV Class 2 Driver with a lorry mounted crane licence required to drive our fleet of modern salvage collection vehicles. Recovery or transporter experience is desirable. Full training & uniform supplied. Good rates of pay + benefits

To Apply:
Phone **Suzy** in **Human Resources** on **01202 744194 ext 226**
Or email **suzy@ctrent.co.uk** to send in your CV or request an application form.
Closing date for application 23rd January 2009
www.trents.co.uk

Poplars Nursing Home

Require a full time

Night Care Assistant

With experience, 44 hours per week

Please contact Philippa for an application pack on 01622 752872

Busy Nursery School has the following vacancies

Nursery Manager required for day to day running of a busy day nursery. NVQ3 and previous experience in this post is essential (full time).

Head of under 3's. Duties to include the day to day running of our under three year olds classrooms. NVQ 3 and experience in a similar post is essential (full time).

Montessori Teacher. Must have relevant Montessori qualification (part/full time).

Nursery Nurse. NVQ 2 or 3 or equiv (part/full time).

Please contact for further details:
Tel: 01843 600444 between 8:00am and 5:00pm (Mon-Fri)

House Manager

Negotiable Salary

Required to run a Residential home for Adults with Learning Disability at our Sheerness home.

You must have at least 2 years previous experience on a management level.

To be confident, assertive and possess excellent communication skills (written and verbal) at all levels.

Experience of writing reports, undertaking projects and supporting the Organisation,

You will need to hold NVQ Level 4 Management in Care; RMA is desirable but not essential, as training will be given.

Must be fully conversant with Care Standards.

If you have experience we are looking for, please write with a full CV and covering letter together with a note of your salary expectations to:

Administrative Manager / Christine Morgan
Forward Care (Residential) Ltd
15Keycol Hill, Sittingbourne Kent ME9 8LZ
Closing date 31st January 2009
Previous applicants need not reply

Director of Sales Global Licensing

ON DEMAND RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPANY

Oil Drum is an award winning environmental technology company with its head office at the University of Kent, Canterbury.

Following the success of our hydrogen based fuel saving technology in the UK, we have created a new position within the company responsible for developing global sales opportunities.

The successful candidate will take responsibility for identifying prospects in various territories around the globe, and will then work closely with the Oil Drum team to bring these opportunities to a successful conclusion.

Previous sales experience may assist, but is not essential. Candidates must be highly motivated and demonstrate a strong desire to succeed. This is a demanding position and as a result an excellent remuneration package will be offered to the successful candidate.

For more information on Oil Drum please visit
www.save-fuel.co.uk

Please send your CV either by post to
Oil Drum Limited, Canterbury Enterprise Hub, UNIVERSITY OF KENT, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 7NJ,
or email to: **darryl@save-fuel.co.uk** only.
Please do not telephone. No agencies.

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Elaine

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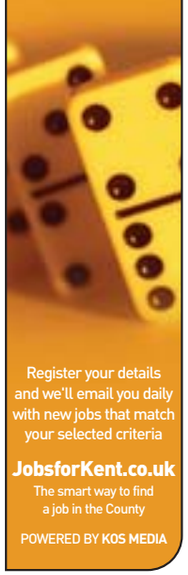

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Swift Security requires a

Mobile Patrol / Supervisor

Must have full UK Driving Licence and SIA Licence. Applicants must have experience in Security Supervision.

Please contact **01233 650160** for an appointment.

SWIFT SECURITY

---

buzzlines Ordered

Traffic Office Assistant

An excellent opportunity has arisen for an Administrative Assistant to support the Traffic Office Coordinator within this busy working environment.

The successful applicant must have strong customer service focus, the ability to work under pressure and be proficient in most Microsoft packages. This role will include working some Saturdays. French speaking would be desirable but not essential.

For more information call the HR Department on **01303 261870**

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require

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Full training given. Competitive rates of pay with enhancement paid for NVQ qualification. Uniform supplied and mileage allowance paid.

Please contact Sharon or Leon for further details.

For Canterbury, Deal and Sandwich call 01227 712300
For Dover call 01304 240424

or email meridiancbury@aol.com

Copywriter/Assistant Editor

Salary: £16,000 - £19,000 PA

AJP Publishing based in Gravesend has an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic person to work on one of the fastest growing B2B websites www.approvedbusiness.co.uk. The successful candidate must have experience of working on websites and some SEO knowledge would be helpful.

Online Sales Executive

Salary £20,000 OTE

AJP is looking to expand its growing and successful online Sales Team. The telesales roll is full time and applicants must demonstrate their sales talents. Experience in online web sales is required.

Please send all CV's to caroline.lutz@ajppublishing.co.uk

Therapeutic Day Programme Workers

£21,244 - £27,492 • 37 HOURS PER WEEK

BASED EAST AND WEST KENT

KCA provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. Working as part of a community team you will be providing a range of services for people with drug and alcohol problems. You will be part of the day programme team, and will be required to take a leading role in the planning and delivery of a structured holistic programme. This includes therapeutic group work, assessment and key working, complimentary therapies and one to one counselling.

A qualification to diploma level in counselling with group work experience, preferably in a drug and alcohol day programme or residential setting is required. A BACP accreditation would be advantageous.

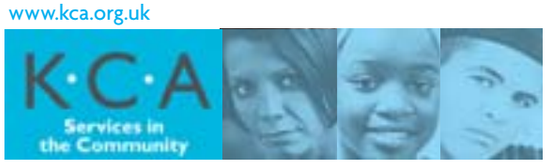
Closing date: 9 February 2009.
Interview date: 18 February 2009.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html or email recruitment@kca.org.uk
Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 546.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers**. Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email recruitment@kca.org.uk

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Technical & Environmental Health Services

Senior Project Engineer

£35,685 to £41,031 (2009/10 Pay Award agreed) + Cash Alternative

Shepway District Council is seeking to recruit a Senior Project Engineer with a background in civil engineering and experience in project management. The successful candidate will play a leading role in delivering some of the Council's key projects within its Capital Programme and will also be involved in land drainage and coastal management services.

If you would like to join us, please contact Colin Paine, Engineering Manager on 01303 853379 for an informal discussion. Shepway District Council is a pro-active, forward thinking authority, with a strong commitment to its customers and staff.

For more details and an application pack, download at www.shepway.gov.uk, or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.

Closing date for completed applications is 6 February 2009.

Shepway District Council
Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY
Tel: 01303 853000
www.shepway.gov.uk

Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council
www.shepway.gov.uk

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

Shepway District Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of race, colour, age, sex or disability.

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enthusiastic
a team player
confident
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We Offer:

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www.kentnews.co.uk
www.jobsforkent.co.uk
www.yourkenttv.co.uk

To join a visionary and exciting media company, please phone Christine Davidson, Advertising Development Manager in the first instance on **01303 817040** or email your cv to christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

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Office Assistant

£14,847 - £16,614 (SCP 12 - 17) PRO RATA

30 HOURS PER WEEK • MATERNITY COVER FOR 6-12 MONTHS

CANTERBURY

KCA provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. You will be the first point of contact for all callers, visitors and service users at KCA Canterbury, whether by telephone, email, post or in person. You will ensure that they are dealt with promptly, efficiently and courteously.

As a key member of the Administration team, you will need to have top MS Office skills and a 'can do' approach. You should be able to communicate with a wide cross-section of staff and external contacts in a highly professional manner.

If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Toni Howes, Service Manager KCA Canterbury on 01227 454740 or Christine Gordon Admin Lead on 01795 590795 ex.2.

Closing date: 13 February 2009.

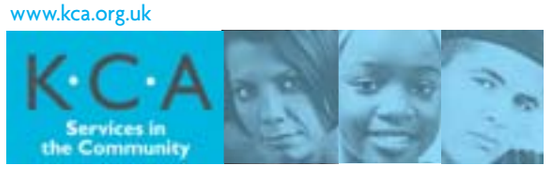
Interview date: 18 February 2009.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html or email recruitment@kca.org.uk
Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference 548.

We regularly have opportunities for **Community Drug Workers**. Vacancies are advertised on our website and if you would like more information please email recruitment@kca.org.uk

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity no: 292824.

www.kca.org.uk



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

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CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Whitstable to Dover, Ashford to Canterbury, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS. We work hard to improve health and wellbeing, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services.

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to have a world-class workforce. Invest your skills in us and we'll invest in you with personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and many other valuable benefits.

Team Administrators (🚗)

Ref: 767- ECC782

Band 3: £14,834 - £17,732 per annum

Templar House, Ashford

The Contracting and Procurement Department currently has two vacancies for experienced administrators to provide comprehensive and flexible administrative support to meet the needs of the team.

You must have a good general standard of education i.e. minimum of 4 GCSE passes at A-C grade (including English) or equivalent, must demonstrate good key board skills with qualification to RSA 2 level or equivalent, together with appropriate administrative and/or secretarial experience and be competent in the use of Microsoft Office programmes including Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

You should demonstrate excellent written and oral communication skills, be able to organise and prioritise their workload, work well and accurately under pressure and be able to deal with confidential and sensitive issues in a professional manner.

Main duties will include: - answering telephone queries, dealing with incoming and outgoing post, typing letters and reports, filing, diary management, arranging meetings, taking minutes at meetings, information distribution.

Car driver essential as some meetings will be away from base.

For an informal chat call Heather Vague or Linda Todman on 01233 618345.

Completed applications by: 5 February 2009.

Interviews to be held on: 23 February 2009.

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

(🚗) Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

For further information and to apply, please visit

www.**eastcoastkentpct**.nhs.uk

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POWERED BY KOS MEDIA

MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Programme Area Leader in Sport — Ref: P0264

Salary: £29,267 - £32,898

We have an exciting opportunity for Programme Area Leader in Sport. You'll assist and support the Head of School in the delivery, management and teaching of all sports related subjects. The successful candidate will be educated to degree level and have a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Sport — Ref: P1000

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

The College is looking for a passionate and enthusiastic professional to join the Sports team to teach, assess and participate in the development of Sports programmes. The successful candidate will be educated to degree level and have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification within a specified timeframe.

Instructor/Reviewing Officer — Ref: P0586

Salary: £19,736 -£25,441 pro-rata (22.2 hours per week)

We are looking to appoint a qualified and experienced Assessor/Reviewing Officer for Engineering, Fabrication and Welding. The successful candidate will be highly motivated and able to assess trainees on NVQ qualifications including, 'Train to Gain' learners within our successful Engineering department. A relevant qualification is essential and the successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards Assessor/Verifier and H&S qualifications.

Media Technician — Ref: P1001

Salary: £11,599 - £17,200 pro-rata (18.5 hours per week for 38 weeks)

The Media department is currently looking to expand its provision at Oakwood Park and as a direct result is looking to appoint a Technician to join the team. The ideal candidate will be able to provide technical support to staff and students and will be responsible for setting-up and providing classroom support.

Departmental Administrator — Ref: P0245

Salary: £11,599 - £17,200

We are looking to recruit an Administrator/Secretary with excellent administration and organisational skills, who is able to demonstrate knowledge of office procedures and ability to use MS office packages.

Closing date: Friday, 6 February 2009

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College | Investors in Diversity | Positive About Disabled People | RBLI | Investor in People

Find a job online

Register your details and we'll email you daily with new jobs that match your selected criteria

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The smart way to find a job in the County

Career Opportunities

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Director of Quality & Innovation **09/01**
37 hrs per week, salary range £56,478 to £62,408 per annum

Acting Section Manager NVQs and Professional Studies, Dental, Nursing, Social Care and Counselling **09/02**
37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum. Fixed Term post ending 31 July 09

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based **07/87**
37 hrs per week salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum. Fixed term post ending 13 July 09

Supply Lecturers Higher Education are required in the following areas
Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum
- ***HE Tourism Management*** **S/HE/TOR**
- ***Counselling (must hold relevant recognised qualification)*** **S/HE/COU**
- ***Early Years (to teach on Foundations Degrees)*** **S/HE/EY**

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas
Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum
- ***Animal Care*** **S/AC**
- ***Veterinary Nursing*** **S/VET**

Supply/Flexibank ***S/HSC***
Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum
- ***Midwife (ENB 997)***
- ***Registered Nurse (ENB 998)***
- ***Mental Health Nurse (ENB 998)***

To teach on Maternity Care, Mental Health and Health & Social Care courses.

Supply Lecturers (Teachers/Trainers) are required in the following areas **S/HSC**
Various hours available, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum
- ***Level 2 & 3 Counselling***
- ***Registered Dental Nurse***
- ***First Aid Trainer***
- ***Information, Advice and Guidance***
- ***Citizenship***
- ***PE/Sport Trainer***
- ***Infant School/Early Years***

Advanced Practitioner **02/128**
37 hrs per week, salary starting £33,858 per annum

HR Workforce Information Officer **09/03**
37 hrs per week, salary starting £16,914 per annum.

Placement Officer **08/127**
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £24,408 per annum

Service Desk Technician Level 2 **SDT2**
37 hrs per week, salary starting £16,914 per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care **TD13**
18.5 hrs per week, salary starting £18,963 pro rata per annum

Resource Assistant Animal Care & Land Based **06/08**
18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £15.085 pro rata per anum

Learning Support Business **02/17**
37 hrs per week, 40 weeks term time. Salary starting £16,914 pro rata per annum.

Teacher Education Administrator **08/124**
18.5 hrs per week, salary starting £15,085 pro rata per annum

Supply Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Health, Public Service, Early Years **S/CSA**
Various hours available, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

Supply Learning Support within Health, Public Services & Early Years **S/LS**
Various hours available, salary starting at £16,914 pro rata per annum

Supply Administrator with Health, Public Services & Early Years **S/Admin**
Various hours available, salary starting at £15,085 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- *Pension & Life Assurance Scheme*
- *Proximity to main bus & train stations*
- *Close to City Centre*
- *Sports Hall & Gym*
- *Generous Holiday Allowance*
- *Staff Discount Scheme*

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

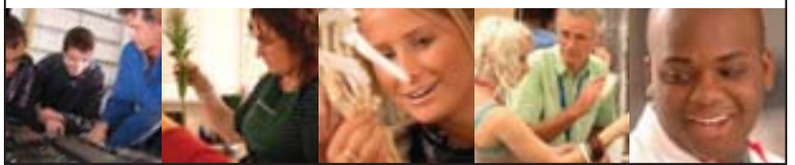
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 02 February 2009 at 12 noon

European Union European Social Fund Investing in jobs and skills

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*



ETHELBERT CHILDRENS SERVICES

"Working and Caring for Children since 1972"

Full-time Teacher

Due to continued expansion and growth, the above vacancy has arisen in our EBD Schools for pupils in Key Stages 2-4; all of whom have emotional and behavioural difficulties. EBD experience preferable, but not essential. A flexible approach to teaching is important. An understanding of integrated studies would be an advantage. Support and training will be given.

Salary depending on experience, post to commence as soon as possible

Closing date: 13 February 2009

Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:

Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ – Telephone: 01843 823762

We are an equal opportunities employer

Ursuline College

225 Canterbury Road
Westgate-on-Sea
Kent CT8 8LX
Phone 01843 834431 Fax 01843 835365
recruitment@ursuline.org.uk

Specialist Sports College

Roman Catholic Co-educational Voluntary Aided Comprehensive
780 students on roll

Required 1st April 2009

Due to an internal staff re-structure, we are looking to recruit talented individuals to fill the following key roles at the College:

PA to Headteacher

37 hours per week, Term Time plus 3 weeks (41 weeks per annum)
Kent Scheme Payscale 7/8 Points 20-28 £20,061 - £26,159
(pro-rata to £17,698-£23,077)

Finance and Personnel Administrator

37 hours per week, Term Time plus 3 weeks (41 weeks per annum)
Kent Scheme Payscale 6, Points 17-20 £18,288 - £20,061
(pro-rata to £16,134-£17,698)

House Administration Assistant

37 hours per week, Term Time plus 3 weeks (41 weeks per annum)
Kent Scheme Payscale 3/4 Points 7-14 £13,959 - £16,627
(pro-rata to £12,314-£14,668)

This is an exciting opportunity to join this highly successful and over-subscribed College, to work with and support a hardworking, dedicated and friendly team of professionals, who are committed to achieving excellent standards across all areas of the School.

A full Job Description and Person Specification are available for each role. Please apply for an application pack in writing to Mrs Tanya Utton, Headteacher or via e-mail to: recruitment@ursuline.org.uk

Closing date: Tuesday 3rd February 2009
Interviews to be held Monday 9th February 2009

"The College provides a good education for its learners and aspects of the College's work are outstanding" OFSTED 2007

Ursuline College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff/ volunteers to share this commitment

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The smart way to find a job in the County

POWERED BY KOS MEDIA

Career Opportunities

Sheppey College

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Learning Support Hair **Ref SH/LS/HB**

18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting £16,914 pro rata per annum.

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- **Pension & Life Assurance Scheme**
- **Proximity to main bus & train stations**
- **Generous Holiday Allowance**
- **Close to Town Centre**

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

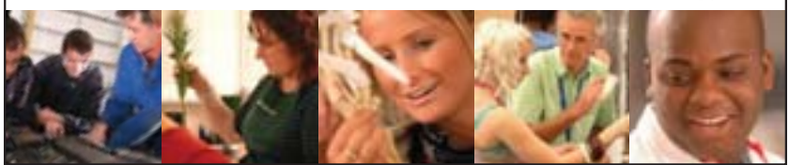
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 2nd February 2009 at 12 noon

European Union European Social Fund Investing in jobs and skills

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*



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POWERED BY KOS MEDIA

ENGLISH AND MATHS

10 STEPS TO SUCCESS - SATURDAY REVISION SCHOOL AT PENT VALLEY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

ENGLISH AND MATHS TUTORS

Start Date: Saturday 28th February - Saturday 16th May 2009 (excluding Easter break)
Hours: Saturday school 09.15 - 12.00 (including free breakfast with students)
Salary: £100 per session
Main aim: Saturday school is a new initiative to support students to achieve at least a grade C at GCSE in English and Maths.
Role: To motivate and enthuse small groups of year 11 students over 10 Saturday sessions.

Previous experience of working at this level essential.
A current Enhanced CRB Disclosure is required.

LEAD ENGLISH AND MATHS CO-ORDINATORS

Start Date: Saturday 28th February - Saturday 16th May 2009 (excluding Easter break)
Hours: Saturday school 09.00 - 13.00 (including free breakfast with students)
Salary: £150 per session
Main aim: Saturday school is a new initiative to support students to achieve at least a grade C at GCSE in English and Maths.
Role: To teach and to co-ordinate the programme and aim to motivate and enthuse small groups of year 11 students over 10 Saturday sessions.

Previous experience of working at this level essential.
A current Enhanced CRB Disclosure is required.

TEACHERS TO PRODUCE GCSE ENGLISH AND MATHS CURRICULUM REVISION PACKAGES

Payment: £250 one off payment for a complete set of English or Maths revision resources.

For more information and an application form please contact:
Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 4ED.
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218 Fax: 01303 279342
Closing Date : Friday 6 February 2009
Interviews: Week Commencing 9 February 2009

achievement for all

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science College

Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195
Website:www.ggsg.org.uk email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Science

TEACHER OF ECONOMICS & BUSINESS

Main Professional Grade
From September 2009, Full Time

We are looking for a well-qualified and enthusiastic Teacher of Economics & Business to join a highly successful Faculty. The person appointed would be required to teach up to A' Level. Economics & Business are very popular options with students and a high proportion go on to study Economics & Business courses in Higher Education.

Academic standards are exceptionally high (Ofsted 2008) and the School has acquired Investor in People and Investor in Careers status. We were identified as one of the particularly successful schools in the HMI Chief Inspector's Report for 2002-03 and we have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term. There is plenty of scope to be involved in a wide range or extra-curricular activities.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of **Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher** no later than **Friday 6th February 2009**

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Director of Human Resources
MidKent College Medway Kent
Salary circa £75,000 + Generous Benefits Package

MidKent College is the largest provider of education and training in Kent, employing more than 1,000 staff and training over 10,000 students and 3,000 soldiers per year. In these exceptional times we are about to relocate to our £86 million new premises which are nearing completion in Gillingham, we have just commenced service under a Private Public Partnership delivering training services to the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham and we are finalising exciting plans for the redevelopment of our site in Maidstone. To compliment this we are currently looking for a Director of HR to take full responsibility for the strategic and operational development for all aspects of the HR functions within the College.

Role

- Lead the development of a progressive HR function to support the College's ambitious change agenda.
- Forge strong and professional relationships with the Senior Leadership Team and other stakeholders by demonstrating an ability to deliver highly professional services in line with the College vision and values.
- Contribute significantly to the organisational development of the College and make improvements to individual and team performances which in turn will benefit students.

The Candidate

- You will be qualified to a minimum of CIPD graduate level and have senior management experience of a strategic and operational Human Resource role.
- You will have up-to- date knowledge of current and emerging employment legislation and an impressive and proven track record of moving the HR functions forward in a large, complex and changing organisation.
- You will have a demonstrable track record of leading change and improvement, gaining the support of staff and achieving tangible results.
- You will have superb communication skills and the ability to engage effectively with internal and external stakeholders
- You will be a determined, creative and results orientated individual with the ability to influence at all levels.

For full details and application pack please contact Katherine Reilly on *01634 884398* or email *Katherine.reilly@midkent.ac.uk*

For a confidential discussion about this exciting post please call Ken Pullan (our retained consultant) on *07725 128661*. Closing Date: 9th February 2009.

The brand new Medway Campus will replace the College's existing sites at Horsted and City Way.

September 2009 will see the opening of the College's innovative new Medway Campus in Gillingham, and plans are currently being developed for a dazzling transformation of the Maidstone Campus at Oakwood Park.

www.midkent.ac.uk

MidKent College

MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Hourly Paid Lecturer

If you have a passion for learning and want to work for a forward thinking College, look no further.

MidKent College is one of the largest providers of Further Education in Kent and at a time of unprecedented change is seeking to appoint a Sessional Lecturer in Sociology.

Sessional Lecturer in Sociology — Ref: SCH

£19.17 to £30.96 per hour
(subject to qualifications and experience)

A sessional Lecturer is required immediately to teach A Level Sociology and OCR A/S and A2 at our Hosted site in Chatham. Experience delivering A Level teaching would be advantageous.

Closing date: 30th January 2009

For an application form please:

- Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk
- Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk
- Telephone the Personnel Department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine)

In all communication, please quote the post you are applying for and give your name, address and a contact number.

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

Action for Business College · Positive about disabled people · RBLI · Investor in People

NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ

Northfleet School for Girls is an oversubscribed, happy and dynamic school situated close to the Bluewater Retail Park. We are currently seeking to employ a

PART TIME RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATOR

Afternoon/Evening
Term Time Only - Core 20 hours per week
Salary Scale Kent Scheme Grade 4 £7218 to £7584

We are looking for an enthusiastic and friendly receptionist/administrator to join our school team.

The successful applicant will be computer literate, have excellent communication skills enabling them to communicate effectively with both students and adults, and be able to prioritise and work under pressure. Confident and competent use of the telephone is essential. A qualified first aider would be preferred, although training will be given.

This is a job share position and hours of work will be 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday - 39 weeks per year – with hours extending to 9.30 p.m. when required. Cover for during the day may occasionally also be needed.

To apply please submit a full C.V. to Mrs S Chisholm, Personnel, Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ (Tel: 0844 477 2525) or email personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Closing date for applications **Monday, 2 February 2009**

Hartsdown Technology College

George V Avenue, Margate, Kent CT9 5RE
Telephone: 01843 227957 Fax: 01843 578002

This is a very rare and exciting opportunity as over the next 3 years Hartsdown Technology College will be redesigned and rebuilt as an Innovative centre of Education under the BSF scheme. As a result, there is a real buzz of enthusiasm through the college community.

We are seeking to appoint both a **MATHS** and an **ENGLISH teacher for Summer 09**. This post is open to everyone from a NQT to someone who may wish to become an AST.

- A creative and innovative teacher who can inspire students of all abilities.
- High levels of emotional literacy in and out of the classroom.
- The vision and commitment to help build on high achievement.
- To develop extra curricular aspects of Maths or English.
- In return we offer exceptional support, training and an experienced fully staffed departments both led by outstanding and enthusiastic Directors of Learning.

For further details an application form, please contact Danielle Skinner or e-mail: danielle@hartsdown.kent.sch.uk. Closing date: **2nd February 09**. Informal visits welcome.

Find out more on www.hartsdown.kent.sch.uk "A Good school with outstanding features" Ofsted 2008

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

EARLY YEARS TEACHER

for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence April 2009
MPS + 2 SEN Points

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit experienced SLD teachers or newly qualified teachers, or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN.

Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 30.1.2009

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3SP. (Tel: 01634 338224), stating the position for which you are applying.

JobsforKent.co.uk

A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Accountancy

Finance and Personnel Administrator

Thanet
Salary: £18,288 - £20,061 pro rata
Closing Date: Tuesday 3 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Mrs Tanya Utton
Ursuline College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
recruitment@ursuline.org.uk

Administration, Secretarial, PA

BI-LINGUAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Ashford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
B M Wines Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01233-650954
Email contact@bmwines.co.uk

RECEPTIONIST/ ADMINISTRATOR

Dartford
Salary: £7,218 to £7,584
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Mrs S Chisholm
Northfleet School for Girls
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0844 477 2525
Email personnel@
northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Training Clerk/ Administrative Assistant

Medway
Salary: £14,675 - £17,200 PA
Closing Date: 31 January 2009
To apply/more information:
Ken Pullan
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: JPCD
Tel: 07725 128661
Email
ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Clerical Assistant

Medway
Salary: £14,675 - £17,200 PA
Closing Date: 31 Jan
To apply/more information:
Ken Pullan
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: PCCW
Tel: 07725 128661
Email
ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Teacher Education Administration

Canterbury
Salary: £15,085 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/124
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Administrator with Health, Public Services and Early Years

Canterbury
Salary: £15,085 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009 at Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/Admin
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Traffic Office Administrative Assistant

Hythe
Salary: TBA
An excellent opportunity has arisen for an Administrative Assistant to support the Traffic Office Coordinator with in this busy working environment. The successful applicant must have strong customer service focus the ability to work under pressure and be proficient in most Microsoft packages. This role will include working some Saturdays. French speaking would be desirable but not essential. For more information call the HR Department on 01303 261870.
To apply/more information:
HR Department
Buzzlines
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 261870
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

PA to Headteacher

Thanet
Salary: £20,061 - £26,159 Pro rata
Closing Date: Tuesday 3 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Mrs Tanya Utton
Ursuline College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
recruitment@ursuline.org.uk

House Administration Assistant

Thanet
Salary: £13,959 - £16,627 pro rata
Closing Date: Tuesday 3rd February 2009
To apply/more information:
Mrs Tanya Utton
Ursuline College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
recruitment@ursuline.org.uk

Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

PROJECT MANAGER

Maidstone
Salary: £35k PA
Closing Date: 30 January 2009
To apply/more information:
Jane Loder
Business Link Kent Community Interest Company
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email jane.loder@
businesslinkkent.co.uk

Child Care

Nursery Manager

Broadstairs
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Port Regis Montessori Nursery School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 600444
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Head of under 3's

Broadstairs
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Port Regis Montessori Nursery School
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01843 600444
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Montessori Teacher

Broadstairs
Salary: TBA
Must have relevant Montessori qualification. (part/full time) Please contact for further details: Tel: 01843 600444 - between 8:00am and 5:00pm - (Mon - Fri).
To apply/more information:
Port Regis Montessori Nursery School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 600444
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Nursery Nurse

Broadstairs
Salary: TBA
Nvq 2 or 3 or equiv. (part/Full time) Please contact for further details: Tel: 01843 600444 - between 8:00am and 5:00pm - (Mon - Fri).
To apply/more information:
Port Regis Montessori Nursery School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 600444
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Domestic

Cleaning Staff

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 30th January
To apply/more information:
Lee-Anne Fossett
Valence School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07887 727182
Email
vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

Domestic Trades

Grade 2 Plumber

Rochester
Salary: £20,865
Closing Date: 8 February 2009
To apply/more information:
HM Prison Service
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email kent-sussex-area-
recruitment@hmps.gsi.gov.uk

Education, Teacher, School

Kent County Council

To learn about teaching careers in Kent, visit
www.kent-teach.com

Pastoral Support Manager

Aylesford
Salary: Kent Scheme Grade 6 - Points 17 - 20 pro rata
Closing Date: 30th January 2009
Term time only 8.00 - 4.00pm Kent Scheme Grade 6 - Points 17 - 20 pro rata (£18,288 - £20,061 which equates to £15,082 - £16,544 pro rata) Required as soon as possible To support the pupils of the School and assistant in removing some of the barriers to learning. To request an information pack and application form, please contact Jill McKenna, on (01622) 714304. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
To apply/more information:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 714304
Email jill.mckenna@
aylesford.kent.sch.uk

NVQ Assesors

Kent
Salary: £18 per hour (qualified)
To apply/more information:
West Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: KOS01
Tel: 01732 376511
Email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Internal Verifiers

Kent
Salary: £20 per hour (qualified)
To apply/more information:
West Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: KOS01
Tel: 01732 376511
Email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Art teacher

Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 30th January 2009
To apply/more information:
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 534718
Email office@st-johns-
gravesend.kent.sch.uk

Teacher of ICT

Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 30th January 2009
To apply/more information:
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 534718
Email office@st-johns-
gravesend.kent.sch.uk

Early Years Teacher

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 30 January 2009
To apply/more information:
Linda Taylor
Abbey Court School
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 01634 338224
Email tayll036@medway.org.uk

SUBJECT LEADER: ART/TEACHER OF ART

Gravesend
Salary: Main Professional Grade plus TLR 2B (£4037.00)
Closing Date: Monday 2nd February 2009
To apply/more information:
Mrs M Tong Ralphs
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 352896
Email enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

TEACHER OF BIOLOGY

Gravesend
Salary: Main Professional Grade
Closing Date: Monday 2nd February 2009
To apply/more information:
Mrs M Tong Ralphs
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 352896
Email enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Subject Leader in Technology

Aylesford
Salary: TLR 2b
Closing Date: 27/01/2009
Aylesford School – Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School - Sports College we can offer you:- • A brand new school. • Outstanding new facilities in all areas. • NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none. • A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. • Your own laptop. • A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. • A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:- • Can motivate pupils through the curriculum. • Has the desire to make the difference. • Is focussed on developing their career further. • Is able to teach Technology at key stage 3, 4 and 5. • Can lead a team of good staff • Can develop this forward thinking department. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna on 01622 717341 ext 204 or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch .uk Closing date is: Tuesday 27th January at 12.00 noon.
To apply/more information:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 714304
Email jill.mckenna@a
ylesford.kent.sch.uk

Mentor Lead Learner

Aylesford
Salary: TLR 2b (£4037)
Closing Date: 27th January 2009
Aylesford School - Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School - Sports College we can offer you:- • A brand new school. • Outstanding new facilities in all areas. • NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none. • A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. • Your own laptop. • A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. • A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:- • Can motivate students and staff • Has the desire to make the difference. • Is focussed on developing their career further. • Can lead a team • Can develop this forward thinking area • Has a clear understanding of ECM, Social and Emotional Aspect of Learning (SEAL) and Learning to Learn (L2L) For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna on 01622 717341 ext 204 or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch .uk The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children
To apply/more information:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 714304
Email jill.mckenna@
aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Maths Teacher

Margate
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 2 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Hartsdown Technology College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 227957
Email
danielle@hartsdown.kent.sch.uk

English Teacher

Margate
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 2 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Hartsdown Technology College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 227957
Email
danielle@hartsdown.kent.sch.uk

Teacher

Sandwich
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 13 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Ethelbert Children's Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 823762
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Student Support Assistant

Tonbridge
Salary: £13,959 to £15,826
Closing Date: Friday 30 January
To apply/more information:
Lee-Anne Fossett
Valence School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07887 727182
Email
vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

Senior Waking Night Staff

Tonbridge
Salary: £18,288 - £20,061
Closing Date: Friday 30th January
To apply/more information:
Lee-Anne Fossett
Valence School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07887 727182
Email
vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

English and Maths Tutors

Folkestone
Salary: £100 per session
Closing Date: Friday 6 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Pent Vally Tech
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 277161
Email samantha.spratley@
pent-valley.kent.sch.uk

Jobs by Email JobsforKent.co.uk

Lead English and Maths Co-ordinators
Folkestone
Salary: £150 per session
Closing Date: Friday 6 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Pent Vally Tech
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 277161
Email samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based
Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/87
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Lecturer - Veterinary Nursing
Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/VET
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply/Flexibank
Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/HSC
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Lecturer (Teachers/Trainers)
Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/HSC
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Advanced Practitioner
Canterbury
Salary: £33,858 PA
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 02/128
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Placement Officer
Canterbury
Salary: £24,408 PA
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/127
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care
Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: TD13
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Health, Public Service, Early Years
Canterbury
Salary: £18,963 pro rata pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/CSA
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Subject Lead Learner - English
Aylesford
Salary: TLR 2B (£4037)
Closing Date: 30/01/2009
We employ two Subject Lead Learners in our core subjects. Aylesford School - Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School - Sports College we can offer you:- • A brand new school. • Outstanding new facilities in all areas. • NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none. • A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. • Your own laptop. * A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. • A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:- • Is able to start in September. * Can motivate pupils through the curriculum. • Has the desire to make the difference. • Is focussed on developing their career further. • Is able to teach English at key stage 3 and 4. If you are keen to join our team at this exciting time in the development of our school please contact Miss Jill McKenna, on 01622-717341 ext 204. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341 x 204
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Lead Learner for Applied Learning
Aylesford
Salary: TLR2b
Closing Date: 30th January 2009
Aylesford School - Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. This is a newly created department which brings together some of our vocational subjects. At Aylesford School – Sports College we can offer you:- • A brand new school. • Outstanding new facilities in all areas. • NQT/ New staff induction package that is second to none. • A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. • Your own laptop. • A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. • A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:- • Has knowledge and experience of a range of vocational subjects. • Can motivate pupils through the curriculum. • Has the desire to make the difference.• Is focussed on developing their career further. • Can lead a team of good staff • Can develop this newly formed department. The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna on 01622 717341 ext 204 or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

TEACHER OF ECONOMICS and BUSINESS
Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 6th February 2009
To apply/more information:
Mrs M Tong Ralphs
Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 352896
Email enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Programme Area Leader in Sport
Medway
Salary: £29,267 - £32,898
Closing Date: Friday 6 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0264
Tel: 01634 884402
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Health & Safety, Security, Defense

Mobile Patrol / Supervisor
Ashford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Swift Security Services Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 650160
Email info@swiftsecurityservices.co.uk

HR, Recruitment

HR Workforce Information Officer
Canterbury
Salary: £16,914 pa
Closing Date: Monday 2 February 2009 at 12 Noon
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/03
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Management, Senior Positions

Acting Section Manager NVQs and Professional Studies, Dental, Nurisng Social Care and Counselling
Canterbury
Salary: £33,858 PA
Closing Date: Monday 2 **To apply/more information:**
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/02
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Director of Sales
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
University of Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email darryl@save-fuel.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Community Carers
Kent
Salary: TBC
We are continuing to grow and still looking for new or experienced community carers in: Broadstairs, Ramsgate, Swanley, South Darenth, Margate, Westgate and Sturry • Excellent Rates of Pay • Free Training • Free Uniform • Flexible Working Hours CAR DRIVERS PREFERRED www.allseasons.org.uk
To apply/more information:
All Seasons Care Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 265 899 option 3
Email info@allseasons.org.uk

Therapeutic Day Programme Workers
Kent
Salary: £21,244 - £27,492
Closing Date: 9 February 2009
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 546
Tel: 01795 590635
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk

Community Drug Workers
Faversham
Salary: £21,244 - £27,492
Closing Date: 30 January 2009
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 544
Tel: 01795 590635
Email recruitment@kca.org.uk

House Manager
Sittingbourne
Salary: Salary Negotiable
Closing Date: 31st January 2009
To apply/more information:
Christine Morgan
Forward Care
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Email forwardcare@yahoo.co.uk

Carers for Care2 Team
Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
All Seasons Care Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 265899 option 3
Email info@allseasons.org.uk

Manager
Romney Marsh
Salary: £28 - £35K per annum
To apply/more information:
Belmont Sandbanks Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01797 366810
Email info@belmontsandbanks.co.uk

Residential Support Workers
Thanet
Salary: Circa £11.5k -£14,5k
To apply/more information:
Lyn Gibbs
Bene Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 369089
Email info@benecareltd.co.uk

Foster Carers
Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
• CAN YOU PROVIDE A SAFE AND CARING HOME FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN? • ARE YOU AN EXPERIENCED CARER LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE OR CHANGE? BENECARE OFFERS • EXCELLENT RATES OF PAY • REAL SUPPORT AND RESPITE SYSTEMS FOR CARERS • EXCELLENT TRAINING AND GUIDANCE FROM OUR QUALIFIED AND VERY EXPERIENCED TEAM We would love to hear from you if you are interested or involved in Fostering and would like additional information. Please contact…. 01732 746697 or Email info@benecarefostering.co.uk Web www. benecarefostering.co.uk
To apply/more information:
01732 746697
Bene Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@benecarefostering.co.uk

Public Relations, Media, Journalism

Copywriter/Assistant Editor
Gravesend
Salary: £16,000 - £19,000 PA
AJP Publishing based in Gravesend has an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic person to work on one of the fastest growing B2B websites – www.approvedbusiness.co.uk. The successful candidate must have experience of working on websites and some SEO knowledge would be helpful. Please send all CV's to caroline.lutz@ajppublishing.co.uk
To apply/more information:
AJP Publishing
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email caroline.lutz@ajppublishing.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

Enforcement Officer
Sittingbourne
Salary: £12,839 -£17,076
Closing Date: 2 February 2009
To apply/more information:
Swale Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: 733AMI
Tel: 01795 417414
Email hr@swale.gov.uk

Community Cohesion and Equalities Officer
Sittingbourne
Salary: £27,612 PA
Closing Date: 12 February 2009
37 hours per week, two year contract Cohesion and Equalities is not just about monitoring, it is action! At Swale, we see this role as being one that produces results for residents and staff, detecting and addressing exclusion and inequality whilst also using information we hold on Swale residents to tailor services and meet needs. Swale is a growth area, part of which is the Thames Gateway. Together with the physical growth, it is developing more diverse resident and migrant populations. This produces a set of challenges, some of which require long term planning and solutions and some which require immediate practical responses. We are looking for a highly motivated person with a drive to get things done. Excellent project management and communication skills are important as you will need to bring together many different people across our organisation and community to effectively make improvements. You need to be an equalities expert with a strong commitment to community cohesion and equality, be willing and able to stay informed and be aware of best practice in this field. In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, Local Government final salary pension sheme and flexi time working for most posts. If you would like to discuss this post further, please contact Peter Speakman on 01795 417251 or email peterspeakman@swale.gov.uk For further information contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone 01795 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting ref: 206ED4 Email: hr@swale.gov.uk Website:http://jobs.swale.gov.uk
To apply/more information:
Swale Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: 206ED4
Tel: 01795 417414
Email hr@swale.gov.uk

The Insolvency Act 1986
SKILLSGATEWAY COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, David Elliott of Moore Stephens, Victory House, Admiralty Place, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4QU was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by the members and creditors on 15 January 2009.
Dated 19 January 2009
David Elliott, Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986
THOMPSON BUILDERS (DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION) LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 05584973
Notice is hereby given that we, Andrew Tate and Nedim Ailyan of Abbott Fielding, Nexus House, 2 Cray Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 5DB were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company by the members and creditors on 14 January 2009.
Andrew Tate and Nedim Ailyan, Joint Liquidators

INN DIVIDUAL LTD
(T/a The Grove Ferry Inn)
(Company Number 06318212)
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Carmichael & Co, 93 Sandgate High Street, Sandgate, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 3BY, on Monday 16 February 2009, at 10.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
The Resolutions at the Meeting of Creditors may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated. The Meeting may receive information about, or be asked to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting.
Pursuant to Section 98(2) of the Act, a list of names and addresses of the Company's Creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the offices of Carmichael & Co, 5th Floor, City Wharf, New Bailey Street, Manchester M3 5ER, on the two business days falling next before the day of the Meeting.
Dated: 15 January 2009
By Order of the Board
Paul Guilfoyle, Chairman

RIVERSIDE GRAPHICS LIMITED
(Company Number 03914131)
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Nortons, Highlands House, Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood, Reading, RG7 1NT, on 6 February 2009, at 2.30 pm for the purpose of dealing with Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986. Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged no later than 12.00 noon on 5th February 2009 at the above address.
A full list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors may be examined free of charge at the offices of Nortons Recovery Limited, Highlands House, Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood, Reading, RG7 1NT, between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days prior to the day of the meeting.
Dated: 15 January 2009
By Order of the Board
J Arnell, Director

TURKS SOUTH EAST LIMITED
(Company Number 06527550)
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Judd House, 16 East Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HG, on Thursday 12 February 2009, at 2.15 pm for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act. Forms of proxy to be used at the Meeting, accompanied by a statement of claim, must be lodged at the offices of Vantis Business Recovery Services, Judd House, 16 East Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HG, the registered office of the Company, not later than 12.00 noon on Wednesday 11th February 2009.
Vincent John Green of Vantis Business Recovery Services, Judd House, 16 East Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1HG, is a person qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the Company who, during the period before the day on which the meeting is to be held, will furnish Creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated: 19 January 2009
By Order of the Board
Anthony Groves, Director

The Insolvency Act 1986
C.T.F SUPPLIES LIMITED
Company Number 02954892
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at First Floor, 89 King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1BG, on 30 January 2009, at 10.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge a full statement of account and (unless attending in person) a proxy with the Company at the offices of Smith & Williamson Limited, 25 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AY, no later than 12 noon on the business day before the Meeting of Creditors.
Secured creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security, the date when it was given, and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting.
Resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a Resolution specifying the terms upon which the Joint Liquidators are to be remunerated and the creditors may receive information about or be called upon to approve the costs of preparing the Statement of Affairs and the costs of convening the Meeting of Creditors.
A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at the offices of Smith & Williamson Limited, 25 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AY between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days prior to the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated: 20 January 2009
By Order of the Board
Andrew Bellamy, Director

The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986
DIRECT HEALTH 2000 LIMITED
Company Number 3614292
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that Neil Richard Gibson and Mark Grahame Tailby of CBA, Insolvency Practitioners, 39 Castle Street, Leicester, LE1 5WN were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named Company on 5 January 2009 by a Resolution passed by the Members, and ratified by the Creditors.
Dated: 5 January 2009
Neil Gibson, Joint Liquidator

The smart way to find your next job
JobsforKent.co.uk

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/08/03758/FL – Land East Of St Lawrence Church The Street Mereworth Maidstone Kent – Avenue Building Company are applying for replacement of all buildings on site with one new single storey office building. Reason: CA GPI

TM/08/03739/FL – Barons Place Farm Seven Mile Lane Mereworth Maidstone Kent ME18 5NE – Mrs M Regan is applying for erection of agricultural polytunnels covered with clear plastic sheeting. To include rotational tunnels and successive tunnels with no more than 175ha (33%) of the landholding covered with tunnels in any one calendar year. Reason: HA MD PROW CA GPI

TM/08/03752/FL – 12 Churchfields West Malling Kent ME19 6RJ – Ms Christine Moore is applying for alterations to create a link between existing dormer windows to rear roof slope. Reason: CA

TM/09/00002/FL – 4 To 5 Manor Farm Cottages Oldbury Lane Ightham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 9DG – Mr And Mrs Oliver Barratt are applying for extension to rear/side of existing domestic property, single storey consisting of kitchen area, dining and living space, removal of 2no. trees with replanting (Resubmission of TM/05/00050/FL). Reason: CA

Reasons for the case being publicised:

CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
MD Application is a Major Development
PROW Application affects a Public Right of Way
GPI Application is of general Public Interest
HA Site is over 1ha.

These applications are displayed on our website HYPERLINK "http://www.tmbc.gov.uk" www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Do It Online" and follow the instructions for "Planning Applications" online. You can submit your comments by emailing to HYPERLINK "mailto:planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk" planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below).

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 15 February 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
25 January 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Highways - County of Kent

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, COUNTY OF KENT) (BUS LANE, EXEMPTION) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1, 2 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to allow Kent County Council Liveried Traffic Officer Vehicles to use all existing bus lanes and routes for buses within Kent, including those with exemptions for cycles, taxis or other vehicles.

A copy of the proposed Order and other relevant documents may be inspected during normal office hours at Kent Highway Services Main Reception, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX.

If you wish to support or object to the proposed Order, you should write, stating your reasons, to the Traffic Planner (RAS), Kent Highway Services, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX to be received no later than NOON on Monday 16th February 2009.

Highways - District of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Bridge Street, Wye) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the closure of Wye railway level crossing for track maintenance, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bridge Street, Wye at Wye Level Crossing, on or after 9 February 2009 for an estimated period of one week or until such works are complete.

The work is planned to be carried out overnight between the hours of 11.00 pm and 5.30 am with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative route for through traffic will be (a) for vehicles up to 13 feet high, via Churchfield Way, High Street, Olantigh Road, The Street, Godmersham, A28 Canterbury Road, Boughton Corner and Bramble Lane (b) For vehicles over 13 feet high, via Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxenturn Road, Naccolt Road, Amage Road, A2070 Kennington Road, A28 Canterbury Road, Kempes Corner and Harville Road.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Orchard Street, Canterbury) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the replacement of water safety valves, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting south west bound traffic on Orchard Street, Canterbury at the junction with St Dunstan's Street for a distance of 25 metres. The works are programmed for an estimated period of 10 working days or until such works are complete. The order will remain in force for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via St Dunstan's Street, London Road and New Street. North east bound traffic will not be affected.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(THE BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT, MARSH STREET NORTH, DARTFORD) (WIDTH RESTRICTION) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that Kent County Council, having considered all representations made in connection with "The Kent County Council (The Bridge Development, Marsh Street North, Dartford) (Width Restriction) (Experimental) Order 2007," has decided that the provisions contained within that Order should be made permanent.

ACCORDINGLY, NOTICE is hereby given that on Monday 2nd February 2009 The Kent County Council made an Order under Section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, the effect of which has installed a width restriction on Marsh Street North, Dartford as described in Schedule 1 hereto:-

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

Schedule 1

(6'6" Width Restriction)

Marsh Street North, Dartford from a point 126.0 metres north of the mid point of its junction with Brunel Way to a point 157.0 metres north of the mid point of its junction with Brunel Way.

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Queens Road, Ash) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because British Telecom require access to a carriageway manhole, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Queens Road, Ash from outside number 46 Queens Road on or after 26 January 2009 for an estimated period of 2 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Chequer Lane and The Street.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(OXFORD ROAD MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on Oxford Road Maidstone outside Greenfields School; between Northumberland Road and Suffolk Road. This order will come into effect on or after Saturday 14th February 2009 a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via Suffolk, Cumberland Avenue and Northumberland Road, Northbound traffic vice versa

Kent Highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary to construct a new manhole on public sewer for sewer connection on Oxford Road Maidstone.

Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Peter Steer on 07881814835

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PENFOLD HILL LEEDS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by traffic on Penfold Hill Leeds. This order will come into effect on or after Saturday 14th February 2009 a period of up to 9 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via Ashford Road, Willington Street A274 Sutton Road, B2163 Leeds Road, Upper Street, Lower Street and for Northbound traffic vice versa

Kent Highways Services apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary to rebuild parapets on Penfold Bridge Leeds. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Jamie Finch on 01622 792509

For further information or comment please call Kent Highway Services, Mid Kent Division on 08458 247800.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
BOTSOM LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Botsom Lane, West Kingsdown for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 26th January 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: A20 London Road/Main Road Gorse Hill, Donkey Lane, Maplescombe Lane.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate Road Widening Works.

In the District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Kingsnorth Gardens, Folkestone) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because urgent sewer works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting northbound traffic on Kingsnorth Gardens, Folkestone from its junction with Shorncliffe Road to number 34 Kingsnorth Gardens on or after 9 February 2009 for an estimated period of 3 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A259 Shorncliffe Road and A259 Castle Hill Avenue.

Highways - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Seasalter Road and Head Hill Road, Graveney) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because major electrical ducting and cabling works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Seasalter Road and Head Hill Road, Graveney, as described in column 1 of this schedule to this order, on or after 26 January 2009, for an estimated period of 11 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic for each road described in column 1 of the schedule to this Order is as described in column 3 of the schedule.

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative routes	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Seasalter Road, Graveney	From the junction of Murton Place to 300 metres north of the junction of Cleve Hill	Via Faversham Road, Joy Lane, Borstal Hill, Thanet Way, Head Hill. Head Hill Road	26 January 2009 for up to 10 weeks
Phase 2			
Head Hill Road, Graveney	Between the junction of Goosefields and the junction of Sandbanks Road	Via Seasalter Road, Faversham Road, Joy Lane, Borstal Hill, Thanet Way and Head Hill	6 April 2009 for up to 4 days

This order will come into force on Monday 26 January 2009 and will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months or until the works are completed, whichever is the sooner.

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HAINE ROAD (FORMERLY A256), RAMSGATE) (7.5 TONNES WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2009 (VARIOUS ROADS, RAMSGATE) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2009 (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2009 (PROHIBITION OF RIGHT HAND TURNS) ORDER 2009 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made Orders under Sections 1. 2, 4, 82, 83, 84, and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers, the effect of which has imposed several Traffic Management measures primarily on the new Thanet Access road which will be named the A256 New Haine Road and link to the existing section of the A256 New Haine Road which is currently under construction in Ramsgate.

These measures include proposals to introduce a 7.5 Tonnes weight limit and reduce the existing speed limit from 40 to 30mph on the section of Haine Road (formerly A256), between its southern and northern roundabouts with A256 New Haine Road; thereby encouraging drivers to use the new by pass route.

In the interests of road safety "no right turn" movements have been introduced onto some parts of the A256 Haine Road and the A256 New Haine Road, with a total ban on parking on the A256 New Haine Road and all side roads. All footways along the new route are shared un-segregated pedestrian / cycle routes.

A copy of the Orders which shall come into operation Monday 2nd February 2009, an explanatory statement and a map showing the extents of the scheme may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Office, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 1XX and at Thanet District Council Offices, PO Box 9 Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(Chapel Road, Ramsgate) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because new gas supply works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Chapel Road, Ramsgate from its junction with High Street St. Lawrence to its junction with Ashburnham Road on or after 26 January 2009 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Ashburnham Road for residents only.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HADLOW ROAD, TONBRIDGE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2008 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Hadlow Road from cannon Lane SW of then junction with Garden Road on or after Sunday 15th February 2009 for 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for northbound traffic via Bordyke, High Street, A227 Shipbourne Road and the A26 Ridgway, and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

Julian Cook from Kent highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for the laying of a high friction surface, road duct crossing and carriageway markings. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Julian Cook on 01622 798354

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(NINEVEH LANE, BENENDEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Nineveh Lane outside Little Nineveh on or after Tuesday 10th February 2009 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for westbound traffic via Babb's Lane, B2086 Cranbrook Road, Swattenden Lane, A229 Hawkhurst Road, Water Lane, Attwaters Lane and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to install a new electricity supply, should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Emma Orsborne of Amber Langis Limited on 01474 573831.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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i20 gives boost to supermini sector

By **STEVE LOADER**

HARD-PRESSED Western car brands won't be pleased that ambitious Hyundai has plugged a big gap at the sharp end of its range.

As UK drivers downsize, Hyundai's outgoing Getz supermini had looked increasingly dated sitting between the Korean marque's superb i10 city car and i30 Ford Focus challenger.

The i20 puts that right and looks formidable, despite entering the market at the same time as the new supermini leader in both sales and ability – the latest Ford Fiesta.

Designed in and for Europe (in Germany) and built to a high standard in India, the i20 is another clever Korean all-rounder yet shows greater mastery of all attributes. For a start, fit and finish are better and interior design and materials has risen by a notch.

The wheelbase is longer than the Getz and wider too, so the car feels roomier and better arranged while boot space bears comparison with some hatchbacks from the class above.

That extra space between the wheels has also contributed to a near perfect balance of ride quality and handling; my own preference leans towards a slightly tauter chassis, but the increasingly poor state of our roads makes a set-up like the i20's far more realistic.

Standard kit on the car has been enhanced so every i20 comes with full complement of airbags, air con and glove box cooler, electric front windows plus fully adjustable wheel and driver's seat – all from just £8,645 for the petrol 1.2-litre five-door Classic.

Entry prices will fall in April when the three-door version goes on sale from £8,195 and, with the promise of reliability backed by Hyundai's five-year warranty, far more style and predicted low running costs, choosing such a car looks like a no-brainer whether or not you note the current economic climate.

It still has to be criticised for lacking a 'wow factor' while doing virtually everything so well and the 77bhp 1.2 petrol is a better bet for the money than the 1.4 costing from £500 more – there is little extra urge for the reduced economy and higher emissions and the smaller unit's gearbox is crisper.

A 1.4 diesel is also offered, but none were available at the launch event. This should average some 10mpg more than the 1.2 petrol, but prices start from a £1,000 more and I'm increasingly dubious about the benefits of small diesels against upfront cost, dearer fuel, plus higher wear and tear on tyres and front-end mechanicals.

Petrol models are still quieter generally and emissions control and output are improving.

The other big i20 buying choice is trim level and mid-range Comfort (from £9,445 in five-door) looks best with powered windows all round, alloys, USB port for iPod/MP3, steering wheel controls for the sound system and powered folding and heated door mirrors.

Search online for your new car today
www.carsforkent.co.uk

INSIDE

Alfa's got a little beauty Page 80

Ford wins big at 'Oscars' Page 81

Impreza gets new look Pages 84-85

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08 Reg Mazda3 1.4 S 5dr	£7,390	£11,568	£4,178
08 Reg Mazda3 2.0d Sport 5dr	£12,990	£16,624	£3,634
58 Reg Mazda5 2.0d Sport 5dr	£14,290	£16,624	£2,334
07 Reg Mazda6 2.0 TS2 [147] 5dr	£8,590	£17,930	£9,340
57 Reg Mazda CX-7 2.3T 5dr	£15,190	£24,448	£9,258
08 Reg Mazda MX-5 1.8i [Option Pack]	£11,849	£16,203	£4,354
08 Reg Mazda MX-5 2.0i [Option Pack]	£12,499	£17,181	£4,682

Peugeots

	OUR PRICE	WAS NEW	YOU SAVE
08 Reg Peugeot 207 1.4 VTi S [95] 5dr	£7,790	£12,013	£4,223
07 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 VTi SE [120] 5dr	£8,490	£12,622	£4,132
08 Reg Peugeot 207 1.6 HDi 90 S 5dr	£9,990	£13,039	£3,049
08 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 VTi Sport 5dr	£10,490	£15,390	£4,900
57 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 HDi 110 Sport	£10,990	£17,445	£6,455
08 Reg Peugeot 308 1.6 HDI 110 SE 5dr	£12,490	£18,423	£5,933
08 Reg Peugeot 308 2.0 HDi GT 5dr	£13,590	£20,186	£6,596
57 Reg Peugeot 407 2.0 HDi 136 SE 5dr	£10,190	£18,455	£8,265

Renaults

	OUR PRICE	WAS NEW	YOU SAVE
58 Reg Renault Twingo 1.2 TCE GT 3dr	£6,999	£10,157	£3,158
07 Reg Renault Clio 1.4 16V Dynamique	£7,290	£10,437	£3,147
08 Reg Renault Clio 1.5 dCi Dynamique 3dr	£8,990	£12,201	£3,211
08 Reg Renault Grand Modus 1.6 5dr Auto	£8,090	£13,158	£5,068
08 Reg Renault Megane 2.0 Renaultsport 225	£12,890	£19,195	£6,305
08 Reg Renault Laguna 2.0 dCi Dynamique 5dr	£12,490	£17,229	£4,739
08 Reg Renault Laguna 2.0 dCi 180 GT 5dr	£14,290	£21,438	£7,148
58 Reg Renault Koleos 2.0 dCi Priviledge 5dr	£20,390	£23,367	£2,977

Other Makes

	OUR PRICE	WAS NEW	YOU SAVE
07 Reg Citroen C3 1.6 HDi 16V Exclusive 5dr	£6,799	£13,032	£6,233
07 Reg Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 3dr (Climate)	£5,999	£9,622	£3,623
57 Reg Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr (Climate) 5dr	£8,499	£15,045	£6,546
57 Reg Ford Mondeo 1.8 TDCi Edge 5dr	£9,750	£16,795	£7,045
57 Reg Vauxhall Astra 1.8i VVT Elite 5dr	£8,299	£17,015	£8,716
07 Reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i 16V Life 3dr	£6,599	£9,497	£2,898
07 Reg Vauxhall Vectra 1.8i VVT Exclusiv 5dr	£6,990	£14,897	£7,907
57 Reg Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Design	£11,999	£21,705	£9,706

58 Reg Mazda
Mazda2 1.4D TS2 3dr
Was New £11213
Our Price £9190
Saving against new £2023

08 Reg Mazda
Mazda3 2.0 Sport 4dr
Was New £16624
Our Price £11990
Saving against new £4634

08 Reg Mazda
MX-5 2.0i Sport 2dr
Was New £18650
Our Price £12999
Saving against new £5651

08 Reg Peugeot
207 1.4 16v Sport 3dr
Was New £12160
Our Price £7790
Saving against new £4370

08 Reg Peugeot
308 1.6 HDi 110 S 5dr
Was New £15794
Our Price £10290
Saving against new £5504

57 Reg Peugeot
4007 2.2 HDi GT 5dr
Was New £25864
Our Price £16990
Saving against new £8874

58 Reg Renault
Clio 1.2 TCE Expression 3dr
Was New £11495
Our Price £7720
Saving against new £3775

58 Reg Renault
Megane 1.6 VVT Dynamique 5dr
Was New £15967
Our Price £9999
Saving against new £5968

57 Reg Renault
Laguna 2.0 dCi 150 Dynamique Auto
Was New £19970
Our Price £12690
Saving against new £7280

57 Reg Fiat
Grande Punto 1.2 Active 5dr
Was New £9050
Our Price £5099
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07 Reg Vauxhall
Vectra 1.8i VVT LIfe 5dr
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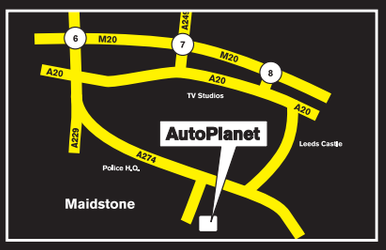

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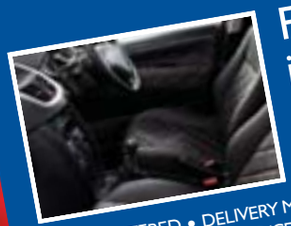

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58 Reg 207 Monaco 1.4 8V A/C 5dr, Delivery Mileage	£12235	£9995	£2240
58 Reg 207 Sport 1.6VTI 5DR, Delivery Mileage	£13450	£10695	£2755
58 Reg 207 SW Sport 1.6 VTi 120, Delivery Mileage	£14320	£11245	£3075
58 Reg 308 Sport 1.6VTI 5dr, Delivery Mileage	£15370	£11395	£3975
58 Reg 407 SW SE HDI 136, Delivery Mileage	£20457	£14595	£5862
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Cut-price Twingo Freeway rises to city car challenge

IT WAS something of a foregone conclusion that Renault would have to launch a cut-price Twingo.

The French marque had hoped to market its baby hatchback as a premium product to rival the Fiat 500 and BMW Mini, but it is not sexy enough and faces too much competition from the CitroënC1/Peugeot 107/Toyota Aygo sisters and now, Ford's new Ka (see right).

So dealers now offer a new £6,995 Freeway version – a whole £1,300 less than the previous entry model and £1,100 below the cheapest Fiat 500 and £830 below the lowliest Ka.

It comes with the junior version of the 1.2-litre 60bhp petrol engine, which makes up for modest acceleration by averaging 50mpg.

The car also has steering wheel controls for the sound system and there are various customising options, such as racing stripes (£98) or chequered flag door graphics (£98).

Alfa turns on small car style

FIAT'S resurgent Alfa Romeo brand has its new MiTo supermini in showrooms (from £10,995) and the Mini is firmly in its sights.

A name derived from Italy twin capitals of style and engineering – Milano and Torino – is just part of this small sporting car's appeal and it has also landed a maximum five stars in the Euro NCAP crash test.

Alfa has concentrated on blending eye-catching design inside and out in a supermini sector blighted by blandness and it is available with a range of petrol and diesel engines that can offer economy or power – the small turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol units seem best suited to upholding Alfa tradition and meeting current needs for economy, being able to hit 60mph in eight seconds while averaging up to 46mpg, depending on output.

New Ka highlights tight prices in sector

THIS month's arrival of the all-new Ford Ka city car looks well-timed as car buyers think smaller and cheaper, but pricing is tight at the bottom of the market.

No wonder then, that the cheapest newcomer (from £7,995) undercuts its predecessor by £350.

It has also been promoted in the latest James Bond film Quantum of Solace – glamorous ex-model turned Bond girl Olga Kurylenko is seen driving it.

The Ka is available with low emission 68bhp 1.2-litre petrol or 74bhp 1.3 diesel power, both qualifying for the cheapest payable road tax band (£35/year).

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai i20 1.4 Style: Urban 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0), Combined 47.1 (6.0), CO_2 Emissions 142/km.

*Model featured: Hyundai i20 1.4 Style at £11,200 OTR in Sleek Silver metallic paint at £355 included. i20 3 door models available from 1st April 2009. Warranty only available on new cars purchased in the UK and sourced through Hyundai Motors UK Limited or its authorised dealers. See your local dealer or visit www.hyundai.co.uk for full warranty terms and conditions. Terms and conditions apply.

by STEVELOADER

Ford's big night at 'motoring Oscars'

FORD scooped four awards including the ultimate prize at the self-styled 'motoring Oscars' – What Car? magazine's 32nd Car of the Year awards.

The all-new Ford Fiesta was outright winner and 'best supermini', while the Mondeo took 'best family car' and 'best estate car' gongs.

Two British brands – albeit now foreign-owned – also did well with the new Jaguar XF diesel judged 'best executive car' and the Mini Cooper S leading the pack in the 'hot hatch' category.

The mag's buyers also had their say, with the forthcoming VW Golf GTi gaining the Readers' Award for the 'most exciting car to be launched in 2009'.

But Ford and its new supermini star stole the night and What Car? editor Steve Fowler said: 'The Fiesta is the right car at the right time – small in size, but big on ability.

"We love the way it looks and the way it drives, but it also stacks up as a shrewd buy, offering space and quality, while being affordable to buy and run."

John Fleming, chairman and CEO, Ford of Europe, said: "This is tremendous news for the whole Ford team – the great British public has already made the new Fiesta the UK's best-selling car in the closing months of last year, and this ultimate endorsement by What Car? will drive the new Fiesta to even greater success this year."

Volkswagen came away with three prizes including the Readers' Award, and the new Golf was named 'best small family car', while the VW Eos won the 'best opentop car' section.

Euro NCAP, the European New Car Assessment Programme, picked up the prestigious What Car? safety accolade for its work in testing and rating the safety of all new cars over the last 10 years and influencing the design of the cars we drive today.

FORD FIESTA: What Car? magazine's Car of the Year

MINI COOPER S: Came out as the leader of the hot hatch category at the awards

Other category winners were:
- SUV – Volvo XC60
- Coupe – Audi TT
- Performance Car – Nissan GT-R
- MPV – Grand C4 Picasso
- Compact executive – BMW 3-Series
- Luxury Car – Mercedes-Benz S-Class
- Security – Audi

Previous What Car? Car of the Year winners:
2008: Jaguar XF
2007: Vauxhall Corsa
2006: BMW 320d
2005: Land Rover Discovery
2004: Volkswagen Golf
2003: Seat Ibiza
2002: Toyota Corolla
2001: Ford Mondeo
2000: Skoda Fabia
1999: Rover 75
1998: Land Rover Freelander
1997: Renault Mégane Scénic
1996: Peugeot 406
1995: VW Polo
1994: Peugeot 306
1993: Ford Mondeo
1992: Volkswagen Golf
1991: Rover Metro
1990: Rover 214 Si
1989: Ford Fiesta
1988: BMW 735i
1987: Renault 21 Savannah
1986: Saab 9000 Turbo 16
1985: Volkswagen Golf
1984: Peugeot 205
1983: MG Metro
1982: Mercedes 200T
1981: Volkswagen Golf
1980: Vauxhall Astra
1979: Peugeot 305

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Forester diesel range fuel consumption in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 38.2 (7.4) to 39.2 (7.2). Extra urban from 47.9 (5.9) to 48.7 (5.8). Combined from 44.1 (6.4) to 44.8 (6.3). CO2 emissions from 167 to 170 (g/km) Every Forester marketed by Subaru (UK) Ltd is covered by a 3 year/60,000 mile (whichever is sooner) warranty. On the road price correct at time of going to press.

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08 08 Jeep Grand Cherokee 3.0 CRD Overland Black Black Leather Cruise Front/Rear Parking Aid Sat Nav Rear DVD System 8,894 Miles **£22,974**
08 08 Chrysler 300C 3.0 V6 CRD SRT Design Saloon Black Grey Leather Cruise Heated seats 6,500 Miles **£24,974**
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07 57 Chrysler Sebring 2.4 Limited Finished in Stone white with Grey Leather interior Climate Cruise 11,000 Miles **£9,974**

Scooby flagship is toned

DrivingReview

by STEVE LOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

SubaruImpreza

SUBARU will tell you that cult status ain't what it's cracked up to be.

Pilloried for allowing its Impreza rally icon to go some 15 years more or less unchanged, it has been slammed by so-called purists for totally re-inventing the car.

But cult status does not necessarily boost sales and there had to come a time when Subaru had to stop disguising the frumpy old Impreza with bling alloys and spoilers – it was starting to look like a pensioner in a boob tube.

There was also the saga of three nose jobs within a few years, as if the Japanese marque had found a plastic surgeon's practice with a revolving door.

But the 'Scooby-Do' community was torn in 2007 by the belated 'one-size fits all' five-door hatchback replacement for the old saloon and 'estate' options.

I wonder why though; both former and new Impreza buyers get a car that is more versatile and one that still offers affordable all-wheel drive – a Subaru 'trademark' – across a wide range.

Our test car is the performance flagship, the 2.5 WRX STi, though don't rule out even hotter ones to come.

It still has supercar acceleration (0-60mph in under five seconds) for half or a third of the cash, but is far more conservative and less 'Burberry baseball cap' than before – more where Subaru wants and needs to be, especially now that it has added a diesel option to bigger models in its line-up.

The new WRX STi retains a thrill factor: the big bonnet air scoop adds to a muscular style and the smooth turbocharged 300bhp flat four or boxer engine sounds good – though not as guttural as before.

You can also tweak the centre differential to distribute more power to either axle and play with the engine/throttle response, but that is track day stuff or something to keep geeks happy; this car is such a taut drive and puts its ample power down so well that it is hard to drive legally and put such features to the test.

Which brings me back to flexibility; the new Impreza – in any version – is better suited to current times and conditions and will win more converts than it will lose diehards.

Despite having an extra transmission up the back end, the hatchback boot is surprisingly roomy – it's 25 per cent smaller than a Ford Focus, but not much inferior to a Renault Megane and matches a Vauxhall Astra.

Being a Subaru, the Impreza should also uphold the brand's reputation for indestructible rally-bred engineering.

If I was picky I would say the six-speed WRX gearshift is not as crisp as it could be, but that might ease in time.

As with a lot of cars expected to span a wide price range the basic Impreza interior also looks a bit stark in the top end WRX, despite the usual hot badges and more generous equipment – the test car is more than

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08/08 Note 1.6 Tekna Auto - choice of two from	£15,045	£9,995	£5050
QASHQAI			
08/58 QASHQAI 1.6 Visia in Flame Red	£14,349	£11,995	£2354
08/58 QASHQAI 1.5DCi Acenta in Cafe Latte	£17,654	£13,995	£3659
X-TRAIL			
08/08 X Trail 2.0DCi 173 Aventura Expdtn Extreme, Black	£27,585	£16,995	£10,590
Pathfinder			
08/08 Pathfinder 2.5DCi Mammoth Auto, Emotion Red	£31,865	£19,995	£11,870
Navara - all prices +VAT			
08/08 Navara Long Way Down Expedition (£8k extras), Black	£27,007	£18,995	£8042
08/58 Navara Aventura X-Back, Silver	£24,157	£19,995	£4162
08/08 Navara Long Way Down Expedition Auto (£4.5k extras)	£27,637	£19,995	£7642
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The WRX is also a comfortable sporting model to ride in considering its prodigious grip, so the baseball cap brigade might have more success this time persuading the missus that the hottest Impreza is actually 'a family motor'.

However, I suspect the Impreza will really make inroads in mid-range, where having a more civilised WRX halo model this time around can only help Subaru's cause.

Anyone downsizing from a 4x4 to a hatchback, but wanting to keep all-wheel drive, should also check out the Impreza line-up.

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DrivingStats

- Subaru Impreza 2.5 WRX STi £26,038
- Range: £12,723-test car
- Garage stats: 4.41m by 1.79m five-door hatchback
- Powertrain: 2,457cc/296bhp four-cylinder petrol engine driving all four wheels through a six-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 155mph and 0-60mph in 4.8 seconds
- How green?: road tax band-G (£400/yr) CO2 emissions 243g/km
- Official fuel figures: combined 27.4mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): n/a
- Fuel tank: 60 litres/13.2 gallons
- Insurance group: 19
- Warranty: three years/60,000 miles
- Website: www.subaru.co.uk
- Rivals: Audi A3 Quattro Sport or S3, Ford Focus ST or RS, Honda Civic Type-R, Mazda3 MPS, Mitsubishi Lancer Ralliart, Renault Megane Renaultsport 230 F1, Seat Leon Cupra, Skoda Octavia vRS, Vauxhall Astra VXR and Volvo C30 T5

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08 58 EPICA LT TD AUTO Silver Met, Climate Cruise, E/Windows, Parking Sensors, Multi CD £16995 £1000
08 08 EPICA LS TD Grey Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking £11995 £1000
08 58 TACUMA 1.6 SX MPV Grey Met, A/C, E/Windows £9995 £2000
08 57 LACETTI 1.8 SX EST AUTO Denim Met, A/C Alloys, E/Windows £8995 £2000
07 07 LACETTI 1.8 CDX 4DR AUTO Silver Green Met, Climate, Alloys, E/Windows, Multi CD £7995 £2000
08 08 LACETTI 1.6SX EST Silver Met, A/C, E/Windows, C/Locking £8995 £1000
07 07 LACETTI 1.6SX EST Black Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows £6995 £1000
07 07 LACETTI 1.6 SX 5DR Denim Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking £5995 £1000
08 08 AVEO 1.4 LT 5DR Silver Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows £8995 £1000
08 58 AVEO 1.2 LS 5DR Black Met, A/C, E/Windows, C/Locking £7995 £1000
08 08 AVEO 1.2 S 3DR Black Met, A/C, E/Windows £6995 £1000
07 07 KALOS 1.4 SX 5DR Silver Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking £5995 £1000
07 57 MATIZ 1.0 SE 5DR Choice of Colours, A/C, PAS, E/Windows £4995 £495
08 58 MATIZ SE AUTO Yellow, Alloys, PAS, Electric Pack £6995 NIL
05 55 LACETTI 1.6 SX AUTO Blue, Air Con, Alloys £5995 £1000

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06 06 PASSAT TD DSG EST 140PS Massive Spec £10995 NIL

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05 55 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 1.6 AUTO Black Met, A/C, Alloys, E/Windows, C/Locking £5995 £500
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A4, 1.9 TDI TDV SE 4dr, hk56dxb, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, alarm, traction control, climate control, cruise control, electric front windows, electric windows, front fog lamps, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, retractable headrests, rear headrests, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, power steering, trip computer, child locks, quick-clear screen, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, dual climate zones, cd player, stereo, radio, 17'' alloys, black met, 45405 miles, £9999, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

TT, QUATTRO 1.8 20V T 225PS, dec 2001 wf51xod, three previous keepers, power steering, remote central locking, climate control, electric windows, 6 speed gearbox, full service history, single cd player, twin & side airbags, abs brakes, esp, engine immobiliser, car alarm, on-board computer, electricdoor mirrors, front fog lamps, tinted glass, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, grey leather interior, sports seats, heated seats, split rear seats, alloy wheels. brilliant black metallic, 45, 500 miles, £12, 995, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

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3 SERIES, 320Ci, bd54xhp, titanium silver, 0 miles, £6997, Big Motoring World, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 1.6i Saloon 4d 1596cc, l316hmo, mot---11/04/08 good runner, green, miles, £695.00, DCD Autos, ASHFORD, 01233 642211 (TRADE)

6 SERIES, 645ci coupe, 2004, mystic blue with black dakota leather, 39000 miles, £24950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

7 SERIES, 745i auto, 2002, silver met with black nascar leather, 52000 miles, £14950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

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CTS, cts 3.6 sport luxury v6, 2005, light platinum with black leather, 22379 miles, £12950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

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AVEO, 2008, abs air conditioning anti theft protection cd player central locking clock driver airbag driver seat height adjustment electric front windows passenger airbag power steering radio tiltable steering wheel wiper rear window, poly silver, 25 miles, £8145, FGBarnes, Maidstone, 01622 755531 (TRADE)

KALOS, SX 5dr, 4739314, power steering, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, abs, multiple airbags, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, 14'' alloys, blue, 10000 miles, £4495, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 5.7v8 auto estate, 2007, brilliant crystal met with dark and light slate gr, 10577 miles, £18950, Martin James Cars, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

NEON, 2.0 LXI, 1995 (n), 95 (n) chrysler neon 2.0 lxi automatic, 5 door saloon, metallic green coachwork with contrasting grey velour trim, low mileage, service history, new mot, ew x 4, em, pas, air bags, original hi-fi, only 1 owner from new. a snip at now £995 many more quality pre-owned cars for sale on: www.rivieracarsales.co.uk, metallic green, low mileage miles, £only £995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C1, 1.0i Rhythm 3dr, 2006, 1.0i rhythm 3dr hatch, damas blue, 13000 miles, £6195, Masters Citroen, Penge, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

C3, Pluriel auto, 1051461, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, cd player, 14'' alloys, sky blue met, 63000 miles, £3699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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PUNTO, 16v Dynamic 5dr, ek05vso, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, power steering, abs, multiple airbags, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, folding rear seats, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, head restraints, cloth upholstery, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, blue, 9000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

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FIESTA, Flame 16v 3dr, gl54tvk, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, 15'' alloys, black, 63000 miles, £4499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Style Auto (New Shape), 2008, insurance group 6 abs air conditioning audio remote control body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment steering wheel reach adjustment traction control trip computer 1 owner service history, ocean blue, 14000 miles, £8000, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 1.8 TDCi Edge 5dr [6] (2007 -), 23/10/2007, cd player abs alarm power steering immobiliser cruise control electric windows, blue, 11015 miles, £12999, Invicta Motors, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, 2.2 i-CTDi Sport with HFT, gd07aoe, locking wheel nuts, rolling code ecu engine immobiliser, central locking, rear electric windows, front seat sliding centre armrest, rear cupholders, external temperature gauge (built into odometer), remote keyless entry, ashtray front and rear, digital odometer (a/b trip), organ accelerator pedal, passenger vanity mirror with lid in sunshade, stereo cd tuner with rds, tweeters, rear 12v power outlet, front seat belt pre-tensioners, front map lights, externally visible vehicle identification number (vin), side screen integrated aerial, multi-function driver computer, front ventilated disc brakes, passenger seatback pocket, rear centre headrest and 3-point seatbelt, front foglights, alabaster silver metallic, 5980 miles, £13995.0000, Barretts Honda, Canterbury, 0845 3709769 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 2002, abs air conditioning alarm body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors electric sunroof front electric windows heated door mirrors immobiliser isofix child seat anchor points pas passenger airbag radio/cassette rear electric windows rear wiper remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment, silver metallic, 37652 miles, £3695, WJ King Vauxhall, Woolwich, 020 8854 8161 (TRADE)

CR-V, LS, 6693079, remote alarm, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, rear headrests, twin air bags, rear wash/wipe, abs, power steering, adjustable steering column, electric sunroof, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, radio cassette, alloy wheels, 4x4, gold, 95000 miles, £2695, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT, 1.4 Atlantic 3dr Auto, 28/04/2007, cd player driver airbag power steering immobiliser electric windows, blue, 13982 miles, £5700, Invicta Motors, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MATRIX, Gsi, gl06ysm, alarm, anti-theft system, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, met painwork, twin air bags, air bag, abs, adjustable steering column, electric mirrors, cd player, aluminium silver, 10000 miles, £4995, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

SANTA FE, 2.7 V6 Station Wagon 5d 2656cc auto, y676ekr, abs braking system, alloy wheels, air conditioning, electric sunroof / windows & mirrors, leather interior, foglights, power steering, remote locking, height adjustable driver`s seat, 4 x 4, radio / cd, folding rear seats. gold metallic, 33000 miles, £4995, E-SSURED Cars UK, Broadstairs, 0845 6447751 (TRADE)

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S TYPE 3.0, 2003 (03), 03 (53) jaguar s-type v6 3.0 se auto, metallic silver coachwork with grey leather trim, only 42000 miles, full service history, usual jaguar refinements to include: power and memory seats, memory steering wheel position, air conditioning/climate control, electric windows, electric & folding mirrors, cd multi-player with hi-fi pack, multiple air bags, electronic park brake, on board computor, cruse control, traction control, tinted glass, alloy wheels etc, etc. only £8995, metallic silver, £8995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, V6 3.0 SE AUTOMATIC, 51 (with private plate), 01 (p/p) jaguar x-type v6 3.0 se auto, metallic sky blue coachwork with cream leather trim, usual jaguar refinements to include: power seats, air conditioning, electric windows, electric mirrors, cd multi-player with additional harman karden hi-fi pack, multiple air bags, adjustable steering position, alloy wheels etc, etc. only £6995, metalic blue, 51000 miles, £6995, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 180000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, 2.0 CRDI SR [7 Seat] Diesel, 2008, insurance group 10 abs air conditioning alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking roof rails side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment, pure silver, 13500 miles, £10495, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

PICANTO, 1.1 Chill Automatic, 2008, insurance group 3 delivery mileage central locking front electric windows abs air conditioning power steering drivers airbag passenger airbag folding rear seats radio/cd steering wheel rake adjustment, metallic silver, miles, £7895, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

SEDONA, 2.9CRDi LX MPV 5d 2902cc auto, gl03xla, air conditioning, abs braking system, electric windows & mirrors, remote locking, immobilizer, power steering, roof bars, rare diesel automatic 7 seater. blue metallic, 55500 miles, £6995, E-SSURED Cars UK, Broadstairs, 0845 6447751 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 90 2.4d County, gk08vpx, cloth, county grey, alloy wheels, sun hatch glass tilt/remove, body coloured roof, body coloured wheelarch eyebrows, coil spring suspension, convenience pack, deep section fully boxed chassis frame, dual range transmission, front and rear beam axle, headlamp levelling, heated rear window/wash/wipe, heavy-duty suspension, lockable front centre differential, passive engine immobilisation, permanent four-wheel drive, power-assisted steering, rear mudflaps, single cd player, tinted glass, volumetric and perimetric alarm, zermatt silver, 4503 miles, £16995.0000, Barretts Land Rover (Canterbury), Canterbury, 0845 3709764 (TRADE)

DISCOVERY 3, 2005 05, black discovery 3 05, black, 65000 miles, £1090000, Maidstone, Kent, 01622 863118 (PRIVATE)

FREELANDER, 2000, insurance group 11 alarm drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows heated door mirrors immobiliser power steering radio/cassette remote central locking steering wheel rake adjustment 3 owners service history, tango orange, 38000 miles, £2489, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

MAZDA

323, GXi D 5dr, ow52hsl, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, met paintwork, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, green, 94000 miles, £2999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MX-5, Icon, remote central locking, full leather, heated seats, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, met paintwork, electric windows, cd player, radio, 15'' alloys, bronze, 100000 miles, £5999, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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MINI

COOPER, 3dr, gf05nxu, remote central locking, half leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, colour coded body, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, 17'' alloys, black roof, chilli red, 46000 miles, £8699, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

COOPER S, 1.6 3 DR, 2002, trim: cloth engine size: 1600 transmission: manual no. of doors: 3, blue, 42000 miles, £9395, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT, 1.5 Sport, 2004, black, miles, £6995, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

L200, 2.5 TD, 2005, trim: leather engine size: 2500 transmission: manual no. of doors: 5, silver, 40000 miles, £12331, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.6 Elegance, 2007, abs air conditioning alloy wheels body coloured bumpers central locking drivers airbag electricdoor mirrors folding rear seats front electric windows front fog lights heated door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser leather seats passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer, grey, 1000 miles, £9512, Masters Group Mitsubishi Bromley, Beckenham, 0208 6587122 (TRADE)

NISSAN

ALMERA, S 3dr, y709 sdo, central locking, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, electric front windows, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, air conditioning, radio cassette, twin air bags, power steering, cloth upholstery, red, 45200 miles, £2495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MICRA, Cc Sport, ce56buo, power hood, air conditioning, abs, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, power steering, central locking, alloy wheels, aluminium silver, 9000 miles, £9995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

PRIMERA, sport, 2001, met red with black with fleck, 66046 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

107, Urban 2-Tronic 3dr, gl57oyp, central locking, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, rear wash/wipe, multiple airbags, power steering, electric front windows, cd player, yellow, 10000 miles, £6495, Automatically Ray Morris (Bexleyheath), Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

206, Verve SW, yx56rxp, central locking, immobiliser, locking wheel nuts, privacy glass, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, height adjustable seat, folding rear seats, roof rails, rear wash/wipe, metallic paintwork, colour coded body, multiple airbags, abs, power steering, electric front windows, air conditioning, cd player, alloy wheels, delivery miles only!, iron grey, £6995, Automatically Ray Morris (Welling), Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 VTi S 5dr [AC], 126438127, abs, air bag, twin air bags, side air bags, air con, cd player, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, montbello blue met, 14449 miles, £7499, AutoPlanet Maidstone, Maidstone, 0845 871 5185 (TRADE)

BOXER, 330 L1 H1, 3252182, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, plylined, side load door, dual passenger seat, power steering, abs, air bag, electric mirrors, electric windows, white, 42000 miles, £6245, Clearways Commercials, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911, 3.6 Carrera 2 Tiptronic S Coupe 2d 3596cc auto (2002), 07, 19'' turbo alloys, sat nav, phone module, rear parktronic, sports chrono pack, sports seats, sports suspension, sports exhaust, vts tracking system, rear wiper, premium carpet mats, climate, bose, cd, fsh, please view our website to see our full stock, basalt black with black leather, only 3, 000 miles, £65000, Vikings Canterbury, Canterbury, 01227 711112 (TRADE)

BOXSTER, 24v, y423fvw, remote central locking, immobiliser, central locking, full leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric windows, power hood, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, 17'' alloys, aluminium silver, 55000 miles, £10499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CAYMAN, 3.4 S 2dr, 3.4 s 2dr coupe, dark blue, 38000 miles, £32995, Wilmoths Ashford, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

SEAT

LEON, Sport TDi 1.9 105PS 5dr, sept 2007 gj57znp, one previous keeper, power steering, remote central locking, air conditioning, front electric windows, 5 speed gearbox, full seat service history, radio/cd player, twin/side/curtain airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, factory car alarm, on-board computer, bluetooth, electricdoor mirrors, front fog lamps, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, sports seats, split rear seats, alloy wheels, rear parking sensors. luna grey metallic, demo miles miles, £13, 395, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

TOLEDO 1.9 TURBO DIESEL, 2002 (02), 02 (02) seat toledo 1.9 se turbo diesel tdi, 4 door, stunning metallic blue coachwork with black fleck cloth trim, service history, 71000 miles, traction control, pas, ew, em, air conditioning, many air bags, remote central locking, alarm immobilizer, original 6 pack cd hi-fi, alloy wheels, very nice condition bargain at £3395, metallic blue, £3395, Riviera Car Sales, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

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AVENSIS, 2.0 D-4d T Spirit (48.7 mpg £145 RFL grp 7 ins), 10004064074, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, colour coded interior, full leather, centre armrest, electric seats, height adjustable seat, lumbar support, adjustable steering column, colour satnav, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, traction control, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, electric windows, electric mirrors, dual climate zones, electric sunroof, cd player, radio cassette, steering wheel audio controls, alloy wheels, metallic black, 71000 miles, £6990, AR Cars, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRA ENVOY, 12 04, 1.7 1.7 cdti white 57, 000 rm, 0 miles, £2995, Beaver Commercials, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

CORSA 3dr, Hatchback, 1.3 Manual, P reg, Yellow 65,000 mile, MOT Feb 09 Radio, sunroof, £550 ono 01634 845442 (PRIVATE)

SIGNUM ExclusivCDTi, 2007, cd player central locking approved driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering history check climate control electric windows, star silver, 9950 miles, £12995, Pomphrey's of Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

ZAFIRA, 2008, ultra blue, 11190 miles, £9995, WJ King Vauxhall, Gravesend, 01474 565656 (TRADE)

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GOLF, S TDi 5dr, aj05 dby, air conditioning, traction control, abs, power steering, curtain airbags, twin air bags, cd player, radio, adjustable steering column, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, electric front windows, electric mirrors, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, blue, 61900 miles, £6495, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

TRANSPORTER, yx55vlu, remote central locking, immobiliser, traction control, abs, air bag, cd player, dual passenger seat, side load door, grp lined. gah equipment.electric standby available if required (optional extra), white, 32000 miles, £10595, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

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County unites for the big fightback

By TONY PATEY
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT business began a high-profile fightback against the depressing economic scene this week with the formal signing of an agreement for action by top county corporate and support groups.

Minutes after Kent County Council unveiled its 65-page blueprint for regeneration over the next 20 years, the group set an agenda for giving local businesses the information and tools to help them survive and prosper.

The initiative is being led by KCC, spearheaded by Cllr Kevin Lynes, cabinet member for regeneration and supporting independence, and co-ordinated by Jim McKenzie, economic development manager.

All the delegates signed a concordat – the Backing Kent Business Agreement for Action – which is a significant step forward after the launch of the Backing Kent Business campaign on December 10.

Basically, it highlights how KCC and business leaders will work together to help support businesses until the recession ends.

Among those attending were the Federation of Small Businesses, Institute of Directors, CBI, Thames Gateway Chamber of Commerce, South East England Development Agency, Business Support Kent, Business Link, University of Kent, Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Kent Attractions, Channel Chamber of Commerce and representatives from KCC.

The strategy, titled the Kent Support Centre, is centred on a website which, although up and running, is still being developed. It is on the KCC main website: www.kent.gov.uk.

The group has agreed to sort out a number of matters before next month's meeting, including getting banking representatives around the table, seconding a corporate finance expert, and details such as making sure procurement procedures are clear on the website.

Delegates are also going to detail their expertise for pooling and seek out and promote all the good news stories they can find from local businesses, to show that the picture is not all gloomy.

In the regeneration blueprint – entitled Unlocking Kent's Potential – KCC said it wanted to "provide strategic leadership and practical support to the diverse Kent economy, tailored to the particular needs of defined sector groupings".

It added: "It is particularly important that the 'high value' sectors such as pharmaceuticals, IT, construction, financial services and creative industries are supported to drive Kent's future economic growth."

KCC aims to publish a Business Sector Strategy – "we want KCC to be the most business-friendly council in England" – and boost its vocational programme, education-business partnerships and apprenticeship programme.

It will "seek to secure the opportunities presented by the London 2012 Olympics, and the substantial programme of new housing, community infrastructure and business developments in north Kent, Ashford and elsewhere in Kent".

To tackle the skills deficit in the county, it wants to "develop a commissioning model for post-16 education and training provision that puts Kent's business needs at its heart so that young people emerge with the key skills required by the local community".

It also wants to establish a Skills Commission for the county chaired by a captain of industry, with members from the key economic sectors in the county.

"The commission will examine the skills needs of Kent and identify areas for future investment," KCC added.

'Landlords need lenders to play ball'

TIGHT-fisted banks not playing ball in the buy-to-let property market could lead to a lack of affordable rental accommodation in Kent at a time when demand for it is rising.

With the latest big drop in Bank of England interest rates, the National Landlords' Association is concerned banks and other lenders aren't passing on lower rates.

Simon Gordon, its head of communications, said: "It's time lenders started to play ball and pass these latest rate cuts on to landlords.

"Part and parcel of the Government bailout was the requirement for lenders to start lending to consumers. It's crucial for landlords to have access to mortgage finance.

Demand

"Despite recent reductions to the base rate, there is very little evidence that banks and building societies are helping buy-to-let borrowers by cutting their rates.

"At a time when rental demand is on the up across the UK, many professional landlords will be aiming to expand their portfolios, thus providing much needed housing.

"We all know the effects of the credit crunch and at the moment lenders are not lending at the same level that they were.

"If this continues for some time, there will be an impact on the availability of decent and affordable rental accommodation at a time when demand is rising, and the last thing councils in Kent, or anywhere else in the country, need is more pressure on limited social housing provision."

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Oil Drum won the 2009 Kent Innovation Challenge after impressing judges at a Dragons' Den-style event.
The firm's globally patented Save-Fuel technology generates hydrogen on demand and mixes it with air and diesel or petrol during combustion to improve efficiency and reduce emissions. The product has received glowing reports from the road haulage industry after saving in excess of 10 per cent on fuel bills.
Founder and managing director Darryl Watts says the product was on the market at the right time to help an industry facing an economic downturn.
He set up the business with long-time friend Steve Martin and is based at the University of Kent's enterprise hub at Canterbury. They also have a manufacturing base at Sittingbourne.The two, plus Darryl's wife Denise, hold 70 per cent of the company, although they hope to sell 20 per cent as they develop prototypes of a van device.
Mr Watts spoke to KOS Media about Oil Drum.

WINNERS: Steve Martin, Darryl Watts (centre) and Denise Watts of Oil Drum

Innovation fuelled dragons' interest in Oil Drum's role

Q *How has winning the Kent Innovation Challenge made a difference to your business over the last year?*

A Winning has made a huge difference to Oil Drum. The initial recognition and press attention was excellent, and the support we received from the other sponsors was very helpful. Vertex Law deserve a special mention as the legal support package provided by them was excellent and we have now appointed them as our company solicitors.

Q *How has your business developed over the last 12 months?*

A The last year has been incredibly busy for everyone at Oil Drum. We have had two patents awarded, commercialised our fuel saving technology so it can be sold in the UK, the rest of Europe and around the globe, and commenced development of our new product which will work with light commercial vehicles and four-wheel drives.

Q *What difference did the £20,000 prize make to your business plan and how did you use it?*

A The cash was put to good use. In early 2009 we had opened a production and research and development facility in Sittingbourne, and the £20K was used to complete fitting it out.

Q *What advice would you give to anyone thinking of entering the Kent Innovation Challenge?*

A Go for it. There are so many people and companies with innovative ideas, and the KIC is a great opportunity to get noticed.

Q *What advice would you give to someone making a pitch to the 'dragons'?*

A Two minutes is a very short time to get your message across. Your pitch needs to be clear and concise. It is important the panel understands very quickly what your idea is. And be ready for some challenging questions.

Q *What do you think made your idea stand out to the judges?*

A Our idea was genuinely innovative. Secondly, it ticks two boxes for customers; there are clear economic benefits for the end user, and also environmental benefits.

Q *Where do you see your business developing in the next 12 months?*

A 2009 is full of opportunities for Oil Drum. Our two primary focuses are: concluding licence agreements that will allow our technology to be manufactured, sold and installed by third-party companies on a worldwide basis; and completing the research and development on our new product for the van and four-wheel drive markets.

• The 2009 Kent Innovation Challenge is open to entries until February 20. It is sponsored by KOS Media, Kent Enterprise Hubs, Kent County Council, Kent Science Park, Business Link, Vertex Law, NatWest, Coast Communications, Lavender Blue Media, CBI, Skills for Business and the University of Greenwich. Visit www.kentinnovationchallenge.co.uk for more information.

Housing Association nearly homeless!

With the lease for Wood Green expiring in January 2009 Family Mosaic Housing Association might have found themselves homeless. They were under pressure to find new premises to allow their work to continue smoothly. Tina Alderman, Facility Manager, found their new office in Muswell Hill, North London and provided RAP Office Contracts with a brief of their office needs. RAP got working quickly on space planning, providing CAD drawings for client approval for the Reception area, two secure interview rooms, two Section Manager's offices, 1 Branch Manager's office, large Boardroom for multi use, Comms room and kitchen area.

After much client consideration and once 'Revision 5' was approved for the design, the project was ready to go with an extremely fast delivery essential - 4 weeks build time. Rick Anderson (RAP Managing Director) says *"We are used to working to tight deadlines and always work with our clients to achieve a long lasting refurbishment, so the initial preparation is essential to get it right. Family Mosaic are a valued client whom we enjoy working with."*

The refurbishment was completed for Family Mosaic to move into on 10th January 2009 and RAP have additionally designed a hot desking area within the staff break out area so staff can work while they eat if necessary. The Boardroom has the benefit of sliding folding doors to enable a split to 2 smaller rooms when the need arises. Complete with Karndean entrance flooring, double glazed glass partitioning with integral blinds RAP add another delighted customer to their valued client base.

Tina Alderman for Family Mosaic comments *"Family Mosaic work with RAP Office Contracts and what we appreciate the most about the way they work is the understanding they have of housing associations needs. They understand that the small jobs are just as important as the larger projects and most of all they show respect to the Family Mosaic staff they work with. It is a pleasure working with all the team at RAP Office Contracts."*

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EU takes aim at 48-hour opt-out

FIRMS which have cut their workforces during the downturn may have shot themselves in the foot, ***writes Business Editor Tony Patey***.

They have banked on employees who are left working longer hours when necessary – but a recent EU decision may scupper that.

The decision was made by the European Parliament to abolish the opt-out of the 48-hour working week – and if voted through it would be gone by 2011 or sooner.

However, it is not yet a decision of the Council of Ministers, and the EU's 27 member states have until May to agree a deal through the council. If they cannot do so, the new agreement will fail and the status quo, including the opt-out, will remain in place.

But Pam Loch of HR and employment law specialists Loch Associates, which has an office in Tunbridge Wells, said if it goes ahead businesses could be dealt a blow.

"Instead of being able to rely on employees working additional hours, businesses will have to ensure workers limit their hours.

"Many may have to consider recruiting more people to cover the same workload. Businesses that have made staff reductions might face the possibility of being forced to recruit employees to bolster a workforce which can only work a set number of hours each week."

She said the aim of the proposed abolition was the promotion of the health and safety of workers – the same aim that lay behind the decision to limit the maximum working week to 48 hours. But the UK Government believed the flexibility the opt-out could offer outweighed the benefits to employees' health and safety.

Since 1998, when the Working Time Regulations were introduced, employees aged 18 or over who wanted to work more than 48 hours a week could choose to opt out of the 48-hour limit. The only limitations were that the opt-out had to be voluntary and in writing.

Employees could change their minds and all they had to do was give their employer three months' written notification.

Many businesses and employees liked the idea, and use of the opt-out has been extensive, but unions have been pushing the Government for some time to remove it.

Along with a handful of EU member states, the UK has continued to resist this.

TIME'S UP: The 48-hour working week opt-out could be abolished by the EU, says Pam Loch

■ FAMILY-owned water cooler company Water (for Work and Home) has continued its drive towards carbon-neutral status by investing in a new tanker to make its operations more environmentally friendly.

The Mercedes Acor unit can haul 23,000 litres of spring water at a time from the company's source at Hadlow to its bottling plant at Marden. The firm's Mike Taylor said: "The tanker is more fuel efficient, with the increased capacity resulting in fewer journeys."

■ A PARTNER in a Kent law firm has been listed in the exclusive Who's Who in France 2009 – alongside president Nicolas Sarkozy and actor Gérard Depardieu.

Olivier Morel – head of French corporates group at Cripps Harries Hall LLP, who is listed for the third year running – said: "It reflects my commitment to developing French investment in the UK." The firm has an office in Tunbridge Wells.

Creative route to making coach firm connections

A KENT integrated marketing agency has developed the coach industry's first tendering website to make the process faster.

Maidstone-based Adams Creative has developed it together with travel management company Connections, part of the Kings Ferry Travel Group of Gillingham.

Connections manages travel arrangements for large organisations, including the BBC, and works with coach operators around the country.

The new website will streamline operations for Connections. Details of new jobs will be posted and registered coach operators will be alerted by email of jobs suitable for them according to region and vehicle type.

"Reliability, vehicle suitability and price will all be taken into account when evaluating the tenders and awarding jobs," said Danny Elford, commercial director for Kings Ferry.

"By co-ordinating this process online we are saving time and providing operators with up-to-the-minute information and feedback."

Will Kent County Council – which has come under fire for its commercial activities, including coach operations – be able to use it? Mr Elford said: "Any coach operator which meets our criteria can be registered as an approved operator."

Was this in any way part of the protest against KCC's commercial activities?

"Absolutely not. Connections provides travel management to a nationwide market and we have more than 260 approved coach operators around the UK.

"Connections initiated this website independently and for the purpose of streamlining operations and making the tendering process faster and more efficient – not just in Kent but for operations throughout the country."

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Factual approach to energy certificates

CHATHAM-based solicitors Stephens and Son LLP, one of the oldest firms in north Kent, has sent out a factsheet on energy performance certificates (EPC) to landlord clients providing advice and information.

Since the beginning of October, the law states there must be a commercial EPC for all commercial sales or lettings, or a domestic one for any domestic property let to a new tenant – although renewals are exempt.

The firm, established in 1793, says if the response from clients is an indicator, many people affected by the change in the law have little or no idea this is on the horizon.

Soon it will be the turn of the tenant clients, who will receive their own factsheet.

Peter Daniels, a senior solicitor, said: "In among the regulations are some exceptions.

"For instance, if a domestic property is divided into individual rooms and let under separate agreements, and there are shared facilities such as kitchen and/or bathroom, an EPC is not required.

"However, where the entire building is let under one agreement, a single EPC will be required for the whole dwelling.

"Landlords failing to provide a valid domestic EPC will face a £200 fixed penalty fine – per dwelling, per incident – and be made to obtain one.

"If a landlord sells a portfolio of properties, they will need a domestic one for each property – although it may be appropriate to have an 'average EPC' where the properties are the same type; for example, forming part of an estate and all constructed at the sale time."

Banks, building societies and other mortgage providers will require EPCs on individual buy-to-let properties, so it is important for sellers and landlords to seek out the services of a surveyor.

This Government initiative is being rolled out during 2009 and is intended to introduce energy-saving measures in three areas: the inspection of air-conditioning systems, boilers, and energy certificates. Some of the provisions are already in place.

Currently, commercial and domestic EPCs for lettings only are valid for up to 10 years and can be re-used as many times as necessary throughout that period.

If a property is sold to a tenant, the EPC must be less than 12-months old – although a HIPS pack will not be necessary as the sale is not with vacant possession.

Offices at heart of city business

CITY centre offices in Canterbury are available through commercial property agents Caxtons, who are sole letting agents for 4 St Margaret's Street.

The premises are at the hub of the business district and yards from the Marlowe Arcade, Whitefriars shopping centre, Parade, High Street and St George's Street.

Public car parks, the bus station and Canterbury East railway station are close by.

The period building has three floors with an open-plan arrangement on the ground floor and individual offices on the upper two levels.

In total, the office accommodation measures 1,254 sq ft. There is an additional external store measuring 130 sq ft.

It is available on a full repairing and insuring lease that runs until March, 2013. The rent, which is under review, is £25,000 per annum.

The ingoing tenant will be responsible for both parties' legal costs.

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NORWICH UNION	£553	CANADA LIFE	£560
PRUDENTIAL	£538	STANDARD LIFE	£556
SCOTTISH WIDOWS	£508	NORWICH UNION	£533
AXA	£505	PRUDENTIAL	£526
MALE AGED 65		**FEMALE AGED 65**	
STANDARD LIFE	£664	STANDARD LIFE	£640
AEGON SE	£633	LEGAL & GENERAL	£623
CANADA LIFE	£630	AEGON SE	£615
NORWICH UNION	£611	CANADA LIFE	£612
PRUDENTIAL	£607	NORWICH UNION	£594
AXA	£560	PRUDENTIAL	£589

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MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

ABBEY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.99% **L:** 75% **U:** 02/04/2011
OD: £2,255

FIRST ACTIVE RBS
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.49% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2011
OD: £1,029

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.99% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/04/2011
OD: £1,030

PRINCIPALITY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.79% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2012
OD: £1,334

OTHER

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.39% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/05/2011
OD: £2,634

ABBEY
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 4.04% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £1,755

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.59% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £2,310

MARSDEN
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 4.09% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/01/2011
OD: £924

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Movers & Shakers

LEADER: Jacqueline Heywood

ACORN Recruitment has appointed Jacqueline Heywood to lead its growing Tunbridge Wells office.

Jacqueline has considerable experience in senior management positions in both large and small companies with responsibilities that have included recruitment, HR and business development.

It is this experience the Oxted resident believes will serve her well in meeting the needs of Tunbridge Wells businesses.

She said: "Having 20 years' experience in HR and operations in the retail and consultancy sectors, and an established career in recruitment at Floss Agency, I know how businesses work and what they need to do to develop."

Acorn Recruitment has offices in Kings Hill, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, as well as Crawley in West Sussex.

FROM LEFT: Keith Merrin of Kent Trainers with delegates Wander ter Kuile, Isabel Fevre and Jenny Stolworthy, and John Osmont, managing director of Waterloo

MANAGERS at Waterloo Air Products in Aylesford have completed a 12-month development programme run by Paddock Wood-based Kent Trainers.

To commemorate the firm's successful completion of the programme a reception was held to present certificates to managers and supervisors.

Waterloo is a leading supplier of grilles and diffusers in Europe, and the programme was one of the training firm's biggest.

Meantime, the training company has promoted three training and development professionals to senior associates. "Lucy Britton, Michael Coleman and Suzanne Shaw have been working with Kent Trainers since the start," said director Keith Merrin.

Kent Trainers has grown to more than 20 trainers.

DR SUZANNE Franks, a leading television producer, author, journalist and broadcaster, is joining the University of Kent.

She is taking up a position as director of research with the University's Centre for Journalism, based at its Medway campus, and also with the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Part of her remit is to help develop the centre's portfolio of programmes and courses, particularly for postgraduates, as well as lecturing and organising conferences and events.

Dr Franks spent the first decade of her career as a producer for BBC Television, working on programmes including Newsnight, Watchdog and Panorama.

She also ran her own company, Sevenday Productions, for more than 14 years, producing a series of news and political programmes and documentaries for broadcasters including Sky, Channel 4, ITV and Radio Four.

Dr Franks' books include Dished: The Rise and Fall of BSB – nominated for a British Film Institute book prize – and Writing's On The Wall: A radical and social anthology, jointly written with former Labour MP Tony Benn.

A former student at both Oxford and Harvard, Dr Franks completed a PhD at the University of Westminster in 2007 on Famine, Politics, Aid and the Media. Her most recent research project, part-funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, has seen her helping to write an official history of the BBC.

RESEARCH: Dr Suzanne Franks

URBAN: Prof Sarah Chaplin

PROFESSOR Sarah Chaplin has joined the Urban Renaissance Institute (URI) at the University of Greenwich at Medway as deputy director.

She comes from Kingston University where she was head of the School of Architecture and Landscape.

The URI was established three years ago to address the skills shortage in urban design and support regeneration in the South East.

It offers training, research and consultancy to help improve the quality of life in towns and cities.

Prof Chaplin said: "The Thames Gateway, and indeed the whole of the South East needs practical support, though leadership and inspirational events, if communities are going to achieve the successful regeneration and development they deserve."

She trained as an architect and co-runs a design consultancy, Evolver, and is a board director of the Academy of Urbanism, a national organisation dedicated to identifying best practice in urbanism and fostering learning from place. She has published three books. Her essay, Heterotopia Deserta: Las Vegas and Other Spaces, is included in the textbook Designing Cities: Critical Readings in Urban Design (Blackwell 2003).

The URI was established by the University of Greenwich, with funding from Medway Council and Seeda, to support and develop urban regeneration knowledge and skills and to inform policymaking and project implementation.

ASHFORD-based national recruitment group HR GO has announced its latest new joint venture, HR GO Accountancy Recruitment, which has set up in Huntingdon.

It specialises in recruiting accountancy staff at all levels, from purchase ledger clerks to certified chartered accountants, throughout the UK. The managing director is Claire Hembrow.

Group chairman Jack Parkinson said: "The joint venture business model which we have successfully implemented many times enables Claire to avoid many of the pitfalls of running a company. We provide back-office services."

HR GO is one of the top 50 recruitment firms in the UK. The business turns over about £90 million a year and employs about 500 permanent staff nationally.

THE Kent branch of the Institute of Directors has harnessed the talents of two company directors for its events and marketing group.

Michael Breeze of Kaslers Solicitors LLP, based at Kings Hill, West Malling, and John Benner, of Sevenoaks-based commercial finance provider, the IGF Group, have joined the organisation's events and marketing group.

Peter Reeves, of outdoor pursuits centre Arena Pursuits, who chairs the group, said: "We will continue to offer members a mixture of hard-hitting, relevant discussion forums as well as a chance to socialise and network with colleagues from all over Kent."

Young 2012 hopes shine Down Under

A QUARTET of Kent teenagers furthered their sporting development by competing at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival in Sydney last week, bringing home four medals.

The fifth edition of the event, which is designed to give promising athletes a taste of Olympic-style competition, was the biggest ever. More than 1,500 athletes from 27 countries took part, competing across 17 sports.

TWO MEDALS: Keziah Hope

Canterbury ladies' Jenny Hall, 19, played in all four hockey matches as Great Britain beat the hosts to win gold, setting up the extra time goal to seal a 3-2 victory.

GOLD MEDAL: Emily Cousins

Elsewhere, Keziah Gore from the City of Canterbury Club won two medals in rhythmic gymnastics. The 14-year-old was part of the team that won bronze, before taking silver in the individual competition.

Harrietsham's Emily Cousins, 19, helped Britain win the gold medal in the team final of the dressage competition, finishing ninth overall in the individual event.

FIFTH: Volleyball player Jake Sheaf

Dartford's Jake Sheaf was part of Team GB's beach volleyball team, which finished fifth. Along with team-mate Adam Smith, the duo had a mixed tournament. They won one game and lost two in their group stage, beating one of Australia's sides in the fifth/sixth place play-off.

Overall, Team GB won a total of 68 medals, including 26 golds.

FINAL: Jenny Hall and the GB U-19 hockey team beat hosts Australia

Indy 500 challenge for GP2 ace Conway

Racer lands seat to drive on US circuit

By TOM HOWARD

MIKE Conway will be on the grid for the prestigious Indy 500 after agreeing a deal with Dreyer & Reinbold Racing to compete in the 2009 Indy Racing League.

The 25-year-old Sevenoaks racer had been in talks with two Indy Racing League teams this month and admitted he was considering a long-term move to America to compete in the series. The former Formula 3 champion grabbed teams' attentions after going quickest in test with Panther Racing in September.

The move to America's premier single-seater series will be a new challenge for Conway, who has spent his entire racing career in Europe, in Formula 3 and GP2, and has never raced on an oval before.

Crowds

However, the lure of racing on oval circuits in front of crowds of 400,000 and at speeds in excess of 200mph, together with the chance to compete at the Indy 500, proved too good to turn down.

Conway told Kent on Sunday: "It is just a great series to be a part of. The ovals are obviously a large part of it and the exposure the championship gets in America is huge. It is a great competition and it is very competitive, the same driver rarely wins the series year after year.

"The drivers have been really helpful and have given me tips with how to drive on the ovals. There is definitely a lot to learn, but I want to win races.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

THE BIG ONE: Mike Conway (inset) will race in this year's Indianapolis 500

"The Indy 500 is the big one and not many drivers can say they have driven in the race so it is very exciting, I'm really looking forward to it. The event is a month long from start to finish with all the build up and you have to qualify for it. It is certainly an event a lot of friends have said they will come to watch me in."

Another new aspect for Conway to deal with is having a spotter guiding him through the races. Each driver in the series will have a team member constantly talking to the driver over the radio, telling him where cars are on the circuit as visibility at 200mph is poor.

He added: "I went to race in Kentucky and saw the spotters in action, which was amazing. It will certainly be different. I have not dealt with that before but it is important as crashes can occur due to the poor visibility. It is great to have that safety measure."

Conway begins his Indy racing career in the first event of the season in the Honda Grand Prix of St Petersburg on April 5. Milka Duno looks set to partner Conway at Dreyer Racing for 2009.

Team handed Olympic fund lifeline

DREAMS of entering a Great Britain handball team for the 2012 Olympics were given renewed hope after a Kent man helped secure funding from Europe.

Last month UK Sport announced its budget for 2012 Olympic funding had been reduced by £50 million. The cut means a number of sports will expect less money than budgeted, threatening the Olympic ambitions of the Great Britain handball team.

Consequently, Paul Goodwin from Ashford, who is also the general manager of the British Handball Association, travelled to Germany and Norway last week to meet professional teams and discuss a possible co-operation and extra funding options.

Discussions with German clubs SG Flensburg-Handewitt and Tussem Essen proved fruitful and Great Britain's chances of competing in the London Games are now looking a lot brighter.

CASH BOOST: GB handball team could be given vital sponsor money in time for 2012

Goodwin said: "The trip has been very positive for us. We have spoken to at least three professional teams and we have good news. There could be a chance for us to agree co-operation deals and we have been approached by possible sponsors for the GB team.

"Discussions with Flensburg have gone very well, but the Tussem-Essen team have offered six places to members of our men's team to play out there and expand on their skills. It will mean the club will pay their wages and will save us money as the academy will be looking after them."

Goodwin has been surprised and remains hopeful by the amount of interest the Great Britain team has attracted as a result of their visit to Europe.

He added: "As we are going to host the Olympics a lot of teams want to be associated with the Games. It is one of the reasons why I think we have had so much interest, but they have been impressed by what we are doing to achieve our goal of reaching the Olympics."

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Kent cast an eye at overseas stars

Club look to strengthen seamers

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT have dropped the biggest hint yet that their search for new players will lead them to two overseas bowlers that will share the 2009 summer.

The club's director of cricket, Graham Ford, told Kent on Sunday the county's management were happy with the batting line-up and instead are looking to boost their bowling department ahead of the new season.

After re-signing left arm spinner Rob Ferley, it seems unlikely Kent will be looking for another spinner as they also have James Tredwell in the ranks, so all indications are that they hope to bring in seamers to replace Pakistan all-rounder Yasir Arafat.

Skipper Rob Key told me at the end of last season the club may have to look at two players to share the summer as it has become difficult to sign a top overseas star for the whole season, due to international and Indian Premier League commitments.

Ford confirmed this was something the county are looking into.

He said: "The way cricket is at the moment, the possibility of bringing an overseas player for the whole summer is unlikely, so we might have to mix and match.

"That might be a good thing because you can then have players that are suited to different conditions of the year.

"I think we are in the market for a bowler because I think we have some good batters and our batting line-up looks pretty solid.

"Bowling-wise, you can never have enough over the course of a season. We had injuries last summer so we will be probably looking for a bowler, especially as some of the boys are knocking on the door for an England place."

One of the biggest stumbling blocks in identifying an overseas player is the Indian Premier League.

The multi-million pound Twenty20 competition attracts the biggest and best names in the cricketing world between April and June which means potential overseas stars would miss the first half of the county season. As a result, Kent may go for a less high-profile star at the beginning of the campaign and then sign a star name for the second half.

One avenue Kent's management team of Key, Ford and coach Simon Willis, may look down is in bringing in one of Australia's back up seam bowlers.

As the Australians tour England to contend the Ashes, quick bowlers such as Shaun Tait and Ashley Noffke may look to play county cricket to ensure they are close to the national squad.

However, with Ford's association with South Africa having brought in Justin Kemp, Martin van Jaarsveld and Ryan McLaren, some of their fellow countrymen such as Dale Steyn, Andre Nel or Morne Morkel may be on the Kent list.

TARGETS?: Austalia's Shaun Tait (left) and South African Morne Morkel are overseas players Kent could be interested in Tait picture: GETTY IMAGES, Morkel picture: REX FEATURES

Lillee to offer pace injection

FOUR of Kent's brightest young bowlers have an opportunity to be coached by Australian legend Dennis Lillee at the world-renowned MRF pace bowling camp in India.

Two Academy players and two players on development contracts at the St Lawrence Ground are being given a chance to learn and hone their skills thanks to contributions from the Kent Supporters Club and Kent member Charlie Harris.

Academy players Matt Coles, 18, who plays his cricket with Hartley Country Club and Adam Ball, 15, from Bexley will be heading to Chennai, together with development contract players Phil Edwards, 24, from Gore Court and Warren Lee, 21, from Blackheath.

Academy director Phil Relf, who will be leading the group to India, said it will be big opportunity for Kent's future pace bowlers and that it couldn't have been done without the two benefactors.

He said: "Indian conditions are demanding with the climate and different wickets so it will be a steep learning curve for us as it's our first time there. We want to get as much time with Dennis Lillee as possible as that will be a valuable experience that is sure to make a big impact."

The group leave for the 10-day trip on Friday, January 30.

OPPORTUNITY: Phil Relf will lead the Indian expedition

Elsewhere at the club, Sam Northeast has been in the runs opening the batting for England under-19s in South Africa.

The 19-year-old from Ashford hit three scores of 60-plus in five innings as England lost the one-day series. He also scored 47 in a Twenty20 game and Relf believes the experience will benefit the youngster when he returns.

He said: "We have been keeping tabs on how he is doing and we're very pleased with how well he has done. That will hopefully set him up for the summer."

• *If you would like to help sponsor the Kent Academy or make a donation to help give the club's young players a chance to improve their skills, contact Phil Relf on 01227 456886.*

Picture: ARSENAL FC

YOUNG GUNNER: Luke Freeman

Gills cash in on youth prospects

GILLINGHAM'S youth set-up is still reaping the benefits a year after Luke Freeman completed a dream move to Arsenal, with several of his former team-mates lining up to follow in his footsteps.

The promising forward hit the headlines last season when he became Gills' youngest ever player after appearing in an FA Cup tie at Barnet aged 15. It prompted a scramble for his signature between several top flight clubs, with Arsenal paying a reported £200,000 to win the race last January.

While Freeman has yet to appear for the Gunners' first team, he has four goals in nine games for the club's under-18 side this season and played for England under-16s last summer.

Although the move meant Gills were deprived of making the most of Freeman's talents, the transfer significantly raised the profile of the club's youth set-up.

Mark Patterson, manager at Gills' Centre of Excellence, has seen a tangible difference in attitudes towards the club since the Freeman deal.

He said: "We get a lot of people who contact us now wanting to come here and I think a lot of that is off the back of the publicity from Luke.

"There's also the fact [first-team manager] Mark [Stimson] promotes them quickly into the first team, which is very helpful. The experience of that for the kids is worth so much, you can't put a figure on it."

The loss of Freeman has not put Stimson off blooding the best young players in the first team. When Gills played Aston Villa in the FA Cup three weeks ago, five of the squad were under 19.

Patterson is reluctant to highlight individuals, but admits he would not be surprised if a top flight side came calling again for one of his young talents.

He said: "If a big club is looking to take a chance, then 100 per cent guaranteed they could take them and complement other team's squads. They're a great bunch of lads. Some will fall at different levels, but I think there's one or two who might just get to the Premier League."

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

POTENTIAL: Jack Payne, 17, came on as a sub for Gills last weekend

MOTORSPORT
Mike Conway set for Indy 500 challenge **94**

CRICKET
Kent look overseas in bid to strengthen seam attack **95**

'MY FAMILY SAVED ME'

Gills skipper tells of pneumonia hell

EXCLUSIVE

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

BARRY Fuller has revealed he was attached to an oxygen tank for four days and was unable to speak after being struck down with severe bacterial pneumonia.

The Gillingham skipper spoke for the first time after having spent a week in hospital after developing the illness, which infected a third of his lungs. Doctors are still baffled as to why the physically fit 24-year-old was affected, but a successful course of antibiotics enabled him to return home last week.

The Ashford-born defender, who before the problems had never spent an extended period in hospital, told Kent on Sunday it had been a distressing time.

"Obviously it was very worrying," he said. "As soon as I walked in to the doctors they did an oxygen test and said I had to go to hospital straight away. They couldn't tell me what was wrong, just my body wasn't producing enough oxygen.

Exhausted

"As soon as I got to the hospital they put me on oxygen immediately and that's when I thought something must be very wrong.

"I became so ill that late on Tuesday I was unable to speak and I wasn't able to come off the oxygen for four days. It came to the point where I said I never thought I would be this ill until long after I retired.

"I would try to speak three or four words but it made me totally exhausted and I had to sleep."

Pneumonia usually develops from an infection in the lungs and can be fatal in the old, young or those with weakened immune systems. Despite the apparent severity of his symptoms, Fuller admits if it had been left to him he would not have acted so swiftly.

He said: "I didn't take much notice and thought I had a bit of flu coming on. It was my family who booked an appointment with my GP and forced me to go; maybe if they hadn't it could have been much worse."

Fuller is due to go for a check-up tomorrow, and is hoping to return to the club late next week to do some preliminary work with team physio Paul Smith.

The full-back has lost weight during the fortnight since falling ill and even if everything goes to plan it is expected to take several weeks before he is fit enough to be available for selection.

Gills manager Mark Stimson has been calling Fuller regularly to keep him updated on the team's progress and is hoping it will not be too long before his captain returns.

He said: "We wish him a speedy recovery and would love him to be back now because of what he brings, not just on the pitch, but off it as well. He makes the days go quickly because of the banter he gives everyone."

RECOVERING: Gills captain Barry Fuller
Picture: PA PHOTOS

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Picture: TRISTAN JONES/LET

EXEMPTION: Danielle Masters

Ladies Tour lifeline gives Dani hope

DANI Masters' golf career looks far from over after she received a lifeline, despite failing in her last chance to win back automatic exemption last week.

The Maidstone golfer's three-year stay on the Ladies European Tour appeared to be over when she missed the cut at the final qualifying event in Spain.

Masters, 25, was forced to enter the tournament after missing the second half of last season with a back injury, which saw her slip down the rankings after losing her card for 2009.

But just as it appeared the Chart Hills member would have to spend a season on the sidelines before trying again next year, she was given a lifeline.

She said: "I came off the course not really knowing what was happening. When I came back to sign my card I talked to some of the Tour officials and they seemed pretty positive. I've got a ranking because of my career earnings and I've done a lot of promotional work, so I should be able to get sponsors' invites."

Masters is hopeful of getting wild-card entries to as many as two-thirds of the events this year. She should make her first appearance when the European season starts with the Turkish Ladies Open in May.

The target is to accrue enough earnings across the season to force her way into the top 20 on the order of merit, which would be enough to regain a full card for the 2010 season.

While it looks a long shot with Masters' past record – her best finish on the order of merit was 43rd in 2007 – there is a precedent. Melissa Reid achieved it last season, finishing 12th despite only playing 17 events.

EAST KENT EDITION

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